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HISTORIC FORT WASHINGTON ON THE POTOMAC.

By JAMES DUDLEY MORGAN, M.D.

(Read before the Society, January 12, 1903.)

The strategic advantage of that promontory on the Potomac, which is now called Fort Washington, seems to have been known to the Indians, long before the coming of the white man into this region. That these aborigines appreciated the natural advantages for defense and offense offered by this bluff at the junction of the Potomac River and Piscataway Creek, and that their judgment and choice of the situation were both sound and unassailable is attested by the continued occupancy of this mound for hostile defense by the first colonial settlers under Governor Calvert; by its choice as a point for a fortification by Generals Washington and Knox; by its improvement and enlargement under Presidents Madison and Monroe, and by its reaching at our present day the distinction of flying the garrison flag.

FIRST PERIOD.

The colonists from England, in the *Ark* and the *Dove*, penetrated as far up the Potomac River as what is now called Heron and Blackistone Islands, before disembarking. Leaving most of his party here, Governor Leonard Calvert, with a few chosen men of the party, set out in two pinnaces to further explore the river. They made several landings, one about four leagues up at a point near the present Colonial Beach, but here the natives on their approach became alarmed and fled into the interior. Their next stop was after sailing about nine leagues, which brought them to what

is now called Marlborough Point.* Here the Indian chief, Archihu, met them in a friendly manner and said, "You are welcome; we will use one table; my people shall hunt for my brother." Continuing their voyage of discovery, they came to what was then and is yet called Piscataway Creek, and here they found the surrounding heights covered with Indians, to the number of about five hundred, in hostile array. After long and patient gesticulations and demonstrations, the colonists convinced the natives that their mission was peaceable, and a conference with their chief then took place. It was here that the English found Henry Fleet, who had been captured and held as a prisoner, and through his acting as interpreter much good feeling was shown.

Shortly after the arrival of Governor Calvert and his party at Piscataway Creek the Indian chief fell ill, and forty conjurers or medicine men in vain tried every remedy within their power; when one of Governor Calvert's party, a Father White, by permission of the chief administered some medicine to him and caused him to be freely bled;—the treatment was successful, the invalid began to improve, and was soon restored to perfect health.† The chieftain, though, would not bid Calvert and his men either go or stay, but told him "he might use his own discretion." Governor Calvert, not overpleased with the dubiousness of his welcome, thought prudence was the better policy, and deeming it unwise to settle so far up (150 miles) the Potomac, after having by various presents persuaded the chief of the Piscataways to allow Henry

* Marlborough Point was on Potomac Creek; and here as early as 1828, the steamer from Washington made connections with the stage for southern and southwestern travel: "Time between Washington and Richmond is 26 hours, being 24 hours sooner than by any other route."

† McSherry's "History of Maryland."

Fleet to accompany them, returned for his copatriots, who were awaiting him at Blackistone's Island, and entering the river now called the St. Mary's, and about ten miles from its junction with the Potomac, purchased of the Indians part of their village, where he commenced his settlement to which was given the name (March 27, 1634) of St. Mary's. This purchase of land and treaty with the Indians was much facilitated by a happy occurrence, at least for the colonists, which took place at this time. The Susquehannock Indians, who lived about the head of the bay, were in the practice of making incursions on their neighbors, the Yoamacoes, in the vicinity of St. Mary's city, partly for dominion and partly for booty, and of the booty women were mostly desired. The Yoamacoes were at this very time fearing a visitation of the Susquehannocks, and had already gotten to a point of safety many of their wives and sweethearts, so that striking a bargain for the purchase of the land was rendered very easy for the colonists.

It was but eleven years after (1645) the establishment of St. Mary's city (1634) that among the many acts and regulations for the defense of the province, we read of one for the establishment of a garrison at the mouth of the Piscataway Creek, and authorizing "Thomas Watson of St. George's Hundred to assemble all the freemen of that hundred for the purpose of assessing upon that hundred only the charge of a soldier, who had been sent by that hundred to serve in the garrison at Piscataway."* In Ridpath's "History of the United States," page 219, we read as follows: "On the present site of Fort Washington, which is nearly opposite Mount Vernon, the Indian village of Piscataway stood. Here Gov. Leonard Calvert

* Bozman's "History of Maryland," vol. 2, p. 291.

moored his pinnacle and held a conference with the chief of the Piscataways." "This Indian village," says Willson, in his history, "was fifteen miles south from Washington on the east side of the Potomac at the mouth of the Piscataway Creek, opposite Mount Vernon and near the site of the present Fort Washington." An Indian settlement appears on John Smith's map of Virginia, opposite Mount Vernon, at the mouth of the Piscataway Creek.

SECOND PERIOD.

It is always a subject for congratulation that any enterprise in connection with the interests of our young republic was either instigated by or had the endorsement of General Washington. He evidently weighed well and considered and overlooked the whole field of facts before promoting or sanctioning an innovation. That he might gain a more thorough knowledge of the topography of the country surrounding our Federal City, and the course and tributaries of the Potomac he, in 1785, accompanied by several friends, among whom was Governor Johnson of Maryland, made a tour of investigation, in a canoe, of the upper Potomac, long before the removal of the seat of government to Washington. So it was before recommending to General Knox that promontory on the Potomac for a fort (1794)* that he had overlooked, examined and sojourned in the immediate neighborhood and consequently was thoroughly familiar with

* "12th of May, 1794, Henry Knox, who was Secretary of War under President Washington received a letter which reads thus: The President of the United States who is well acquainted with the river Potomac conceived that a certain bluff of land on the Maryland side, near Mr. Digges', a point formed by an eastern branch of the Potomac would be a proper situation for the fortification about to be erected." The amount to be expended for the fort was only to be \$3,000.

the locality and knew of its many advantages. It was often his custom in going either to Bladensburg, Upper Marlborough or to Annapolis to ferry the Potomac from Mount Vernon to Warburton, and thus continue his journey. He has often, when tired or belated, or for social intercourse, stopped and spent some time with George or Thomas Digges at Warburton—what is now Fort Washington. The writer has heard Dr. Joseph M. Toner, in speaking of the beautiful and unobstructed view from Mount Vernon to Warburton* (now Fort Washington), narrate the story taken from Washington Irving's "Life of General Washington," of how General Washington stood on that knoll, a little to the front of his home, and through that forest vista signaled by flag to Warburton. Then their little boats with liveried men would pull out from the shores of the Potomac, to bear the invited one to Mount Vernon or Warburton, or to strike a trade perchance of tobacco, corn, or wheat, for cattle or sheep, or what not.

EXHIBIT 1.

WARBURTON April 7, 1775.

Dear Sir

My Father & Mr. Hawkins will take four hundred Bushel of your Salt, & I will copy a few Advertisements to be put up in this Neighborhood—your Vessel may come along side

* "The troops stationed near Fort Washington (Warburton)." *National Intelligencer*, July 20, 1813.

"At Fort Washington, now Fort Warburton." "In August, 1814, the troops stationed at Fort Warburton, the only defense of Alexandria, blew up the magazine, and abandoned the fort." Pages 15 and 128, "Description of the Territory of Columbia," Warden, Paris, 1816.

"Captain Gordon ordered to bombard fort Warburton." "Historical Register of the United States," p. 35, Phila., 1816.

"In the same despondent hour, when General Winder declared that Fort Warburton was not tenable. * * *" "Historical Sketch of Second War between United States and Great Britain," by Chas. J. Ingersoll, p. 181, Phila., Lea and Blanchard, 1849.

6 *Records of the Columbia Historical Society.*

of our Warf, which I apprehend wou'd be more Convenient for the people that may want to purchase.

The family Join in Complts. to all at Mt. Vernon, with

Dear Sir

Your Most Ob Sert.

GEO DIGGES

(Addressed to)

For

COL. GEORGE WASHINGTON

at

Mount Vernon.

The *Manor of Warburton* was patented in October 20, 1641. Bounded by Piscataway Creek, Potomac River and part of Swan Creek by natural boundarys, etc., makes it 1,200 acres more or less. Short entry of the certificate is dated June 20, 1637.

EXHIBIT 2.

(To Thomas Digges about exchange of wheat, from Gen. Washington.)

Genl. Washington presents his compliments to Mr. Digges, and will, with pleasure, exchange 20 bushels of the *early White Wheat* with him when he gets it out of the straw;—which is not the case at present—nor can be until the latter end of next week or beginning of the week following: which would be full early for sowing *that* kind of Wheat—Indeed any time in September is in good season.—The middle, better than sooner in that month.—

A good journey to Mr. Digges
Mount Vernon 31. Septr. 1799.

There was evidently much social visiting between the Washingtons and the families at Warburton and other neighboring country seats. In addition to the hospitality extended during the hunting season, Mr. Irving speaks of “water parties upon the Potomac in

those palmy days, when Mr. Digges would receive his guests in a barge rowed by six negroes arrayed in the uniform, whose distinguishing features were checked shirts and black velvet caps. As Mr. Irving's 'palmy days' were before the Revolution, the Mr. Digges referred to was evidently Mr. George A. Digges, who lived at Warburton, until his death in 1792. At this time, Warburton passed into the hands of a bachelor brother, Thomas. As was customary with the sons of the Maryland and the Virginia planters, Thomas Digges had spent his youth in London, where he was known in his circle of friends as the handsome American. Although young Digges lived the life of a youth of fashion among the 'Macaroni' of his day, when his services were needed by his country, he proved himself to be a man of resolute character, and ardently patriotic. The Continental Congress required a secret and confidential agent near the Court of St. James, and Thomas Digges was, through the influence of Washington, selected for this hazardous and important mission." *

EXHIBIT 3.

(Addressed to)

His Excellency
GENERAL WASHINGTON
at
Mount Vernon
Virginia.

(Endorsed by Washington)

From
THOMAS DIGGES Esq.
10th April 1798.

Mr. Digges presents His respectful compliments and best wishes to General Washington and sends this in a small box

* "Social Life in the Early Republic," Wharton.

of seeds, which accompanies a few Potatoes of a remarkably approved kind & productive Growth, which Mr. Rhd. Edmonds Seedsman No. 96 Grace Church Street London handsomely offered to and pressed Mr. D to present in His name to General Washington.

Mr. Chs. Pye, who has also purchased some seeds of Mr. Edmonds with me, has promised to take care of them, He being one of the passengers by the Mount Vernon Capt. Johnson bound to Alexandria.

The Potatoes and the Garden Seeds are obliged to be put in separate parcels for fear of the yielding damp of the former hurtling [*sic*] the seeds.

Mr. Rhd. Edmond's
No. 96 Grace Church Street
London 10th Apl. 1798.

Mr. Digges has taken the liberty
to send in the Box of Seeds a few
late News Papers.

EXHIBIT 4.*

ANNAPOLIS Jany. 5, 1787.

Dear Sir

Mr. Gillis's Polk (who is now here) & lives at Salisbury in Somerset County will Immediately upon his return home have the plank sawed agreeable to your direction & also will forward it by the first Opportunity—Our Senate have rejected the Money Bill & this day we expect a Message from them given their reasons. We have done little or no Public Business nor doe I believe we shall as there seems to be a Party for breaking up at all events next Week with Compts. to Mrs. Washington & family am

Dear Sir

with great Respect

Yr. Most Obt. Sert.

GEO. DIGGES

N. B.

I did not get yr. letter till after

* Original of Exhibits 1, 3 and 4 in Department of State, Washington,
D. C.

the Post left Town & Mr. Powell
the bearer of this has promised to
forward it—
(To GENL. WASHINGTON.)

THIRD PERIOD.

From the period of about 1795, when negotiations were entered into with Mr. George Digges for the purchase of part of Warburton at the mouth of the Piscataway Creek, on the Potomac River, for a fort, and the further expense to the government of small sums of money for intrenchments at that point, there was very little done, until President Madison, aroused by the imminent danger of war with Great Britain, directed that Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant proceed to Fort Warburton and report to the Secretary of War the condition of that defense. Major L'Enfant, in a written report (May 28, 1813), told of the dilapidated condition of the fort and the armament, and urged a suitable appropriation for putting the fort in proper condition for the defense of the Potomac and the Federal City. He spoke of the necessity of an additional number of heavy guns at Fort Warburton and an additional fort in the neighborhood, and concludes thus: "That the whole original design was bad, and it is therefore impossible to make a perfect work of it by any alterations." To prove that L'Enfant believed firmly in adequate sea and coast defenses, and that the best way to prevent war was to be prepared, the following very interesting and instructive extract from one of his letters to General Washington dated September 11, 1789, is quoted:

"And now that I am addressing your Excellency I will avail myself of the occasion to call your attention an object at least equal importance to the dignity of the Nation, and

which her quiet and prosperity is intimately connected. I mean the protection of the seacoast of the United States. This has hitherto been left to the Individual States and has been so totally neglected as to endanger the peace of the Union, for it is certain that an insult offered on this (and there is nothing to prevent it) how ever immaterialy it may be in its local effect, would degrade the nation and do more injury to its political interests than a much greater depredation on her Inland frontier. From these considerations I should argue the necessity of the different Ways and seaports being fortified at the expense of the union, in order that one general and uniform system may prevail throughout, that being as necessary as a uniformity in the discipline of the Troupes to whom they are to be Intrusted.

“I flatter myself your Excellency will excuse the freedom with which I impart to you my ideas on this subject, indeed my Confidence in this Business arises in a great measure from a persuasion that the subject has already engaged your attention, having had the honor to belong to the corps of engineers acting under your orders during the late war, and being the only officer of that corps remaining on the Continent.” * * *

Gen. Wilkinson in Williams’ “Invasion of Washington” at page 285 says:

“Fort Washington was a mere water battery of twelve or fifteen guns bearing upon the channel in the ascent of the river, but useless the moment a vessel had passed. This work was seated at the foot of a steep acclivity, from the summit of which the garrison could have been driven out by musketry; but this height was protected by an octagonal block-house, built of brick and of two stories altitude, which, being calculated against musketry only, could be knocked down by twelve-pounder.”

This was its condition in July, 1813.

Still with all these facts before him the Secretary of War, Armstrong, proceeded to argue the utter improb-

ability of a hostile force leaving its fleet and marching forty miles inland; as to the Potomac, its rocks and shoals and devious channels would prevent any stranger ascending it. "The British," Armstrong concluded, "would never be so mad as to make an attempt on Washington, and it is therefore totally unnecessary to make any preparations for its defense." Not only the Secretary of War, but also President Madison, did not see the need of urgency, and only "a couple of hands" were ordered down to the fort to execute the necessary repairs, so that the ascent of the British in August, 1814, was checked by no formidable display of men or of armament, and their approach to Alexandria was easy and simple, having only one man killed in a journey of eight to nine days or more up the Potomac, and this Briton was shot lower down the Potomac raiding a chicken roost.

After the disgraceful capitulation of Alexandria (and the burning of the public buildings of Washington, by the other wing of the British army, which had landed at Benedict on the Patuxant and come to Washington by way of Marlborough and Bladensburg), Captain Gordon, the British commander, weighed anchor and slowly proceeded down the Potomac. At both the White House and Indian Head on the Potomac (September 5, 1814) there was a considerable muster of men, who fired upon the retreating vessels, towing their prizes taken at Alexandria. Porter's battery at the White House did considerable damage to the enemy, killing seven and wounding thirty-five men. The winding course of the channel of the Potomac and the numerous kettle bottoms* formed by beds of mud

* The British passed the kettle bottoms on the ascent of the Potomac August 19 and reached Alexandria August 27. The kettle bottoms of the Potomac River are bars of mud and oysters more frequently found between Lower Cedar Point and Cob Point Lighthouse, a distance of about six miles.

and oysters, made their navigation and speed very slow, and on many occasions the vessels were grounded on one of the frequent sand-bars.

Only a few days elapsed after the departure of the British, when Secretary of State Monroe, who was then also Acting Secretary of War (Gen. Armstrong having resigned in disgrace), ordered (September 8, 1814) Major L'Enfant to proceed to Fort Washington and reconstruct the fort. (Exhibit 5.)

An exhibit dated September 13, 1814, ordering Major L'Enfant to report to Col. Monroe, Acting Secretary of War, is presented, also an exhibit dated Monday, September 19, 1814, showing the amount of material and men sent on that day to Major L'Enfant at Fort Washington.

EXHIBIT 5.

WASHINGTON Spt 8 1814

MAJOR L'ENFANT

Sir

You will proceed to Fort Washington and examine the state of that work, and report the same as early as possible to

Yr obed sevt

JAS. MONROE

EXHIBIT 6.

TO MAJOR LONGFOUNG

Topographical Engineer

at or near

Fort Washington

By Express.

Q. M. GENL. OFFICE

WASHINGTON CITY Sept. 13, 1814

7 OClock Evening

MAJOR LONGFAUNG

Sir

On receipt of this note you will repair immediately to

Washington City & Report yourself to Colo. Munroe Actg Secy of War.

By Order

F MARSTELLER

Q M Genl.

EXHIBIT 7.

On Monday 19th to be Sent to Major L'Enfant at Fort Washington.

50 Men with 15 or 20 Wheelbarrows, Spade & pick axe & a Number of Good Axes.

Carts will be Wanted hereafter.

Timber will Also be Wanted for the Work And Some Carpenters & Masons & About 20000 Bricks. Some rough Stone & lime, of Which a note will be given by Major L'Enfant.

Signed JAS. MONROE

Sept. 15th, 1814.

MAJOR MARSTELLER

Materials Ordered
from 500 to 1000 perch Stone
from 1 to 200000 Bricks
Timber 40 feet long—14 Inches Square—30 pieces
Scantling 30 do—do— 6 by 9— do 400 do
Plank 25 do—do— 3 or 4—About 5000 feet
1 Gin Complete with falls.

Captain Gordon, H. M. S. *Seahorse*, commanding the Potomac squadron, in his report has this to say of that part of the journey in the vicinity of Mount Vernon and Fort Washington:

“The following morning, August 27, 1814, to our great joy the wind became fair, and we made all sail up the river, which now assumed a more pleasing aspect. At five o'clock in the afternoon, Mount Vernon, the retreat of the illustrious Washington, opened to our view, and showed us for the first time, since we entered the Potomac, a gentleman's residence.

Higher up the river on the opposite side Fort Washington appeared to our anxious eyes, and to our great satisfaction, it was considered assailable. A little before sunset the squadron anchored just out of the gunshot; the bomb vessels at once took up their positions to cover the frigates in the projected attack at daylight next morning and began throwing shells. The garrison, to our great surprise, retreated from the fort; and a short time afterwards, Fort Washington was blown up, which left the capital of America and the populous town of Alexandria open to the squadron, without a loss of a man. It was too late to ascertain whether this catastrophe was occasioned by one of our shells, or whether it had been blown up by the garrison; but the opinion was in favor of the latter. Still we are at a loss to account for such an extraordinary step. The position was good, and its capture would have cost us at least fifty men and more, had it been properly defended; besides an unfavorable wind and many other chances were in their favor, and we could have only destroyed it had we succeeded in the attempt.

“At daylight the ships moored under the battery and completed its destruction. The guns were spiked by the enemy; we otherwise mutilated them, and destroyed the carriages. Fort Washington was a most respectable defense; it mounted two fifty-two pounders, two thirty-two pounders, eight twenty-four pounders; in a martello tower two twelve-pounders, with two loop-holes for musketry; and a battery in the rear mounting two twelve and six six-pound field pieces.”

There can be no doubt that had Fort Washington been properly garrisoned and the channel obstructed, as General Winder requested (August 19, 1814), and suitable batteries erected at the proper time on the river, the British squadron would never have reached Alexandria. The officer (Exhibit 8) who had run away with his command from Fort Washington was tried by the court-martial and dismissed from the service.

EXHIBIT 8.

ADT. & INSPR. GENL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON Oct. 13, 1814

Sir:

You will attend as a Witness on the part of the prisoner before the Genl. Court Martial sitting in this City for the Trial of Cap. Saml. T. Dyon (?) on thursday the 20th inst.

I am

Sir

Yr. Obt Servt

JN P. BELL (?)

Maj. Genl.

MAJOR L'ENFANT

Engineer Fort Washington

A letter dated Fort Washington, July 19, 1815, from L'Enfant to Major Marsteller, reads as follows:

EXHIBIT 9.

FORT WASHINGTON July 19, 1815

Sir

With pleasure I forward to you agreeable to application an expression of my opinion of your character and conduct during your attendance on Fort fort [sic] Washington. I have Sir in all things that have come under my notice found you correct & in conduct the perfect gentleman.

P. CH. L'ENFANT

to MAJOR MARSTELLER, etc.

After the second war with Great Britain, Fort Washington was allowed, as most of the fortifications throughout the United States, to go to rack and ruin for want of proper care to its armament and intrenchments, until in 1850 it was a mere military post, having one or two companies of artillery, and later on only a detachment of the ordnance corps.

FOURTH PERIOD.

In all periods of North American history, aboriginal, revolutionary and secessional, the ground where Fort Washington stands to-day has taken a prominent part. The first order issued during the Civil War for the protection of Washington to the naval forces was dated January 5, 1861, signed Isaac Toucey, Secretary of the Navy, and addressed to Col. John Harris, Commandant Marine Corps, directing that a force of marines be sent to Fort Washington, down the Potomac, for the protection of public property. Forty men, commanded by Capt. A. S. Taylor, U. S. Marine Corps, were sent in obedience to this order.*

Historic Fort Washington, which has seen so many vicissitudes and taken part in so many wars, invasions, sieges and insurrections of this country, had a garrison flag raised to the top of a new steel flag pole, on Wednesday, December 12, 1902, with military ceremony, the music playing, troops drawn up in line with presented arms, and a salute being fired from the guns of the fort. The new flag, which is a large one, flies from the top of the pole fully two hundred feet above the river. It is so situated on a high hill that it can be seen for miles. Until this time only a small flag had been used at Fort Washington on the flag pole within the old stone fort. Under the authority of the War Department the large garrison flag has now been raised, signifying Fort Washington is the headquarters for the Potomac forts.

DISCUSSION.

Mr. M. I. Weller said: While the able paper which has just been read by Dr. Morgan deserves abundant praise, still I cannot allow this occasion to pass with-

* Richard Wainwright, U. S. N.

out entering my protest against the undeserved condemnation of the American army which was intrusted with the defense of the National Capital and which was commanded by that efficient soldier, General William H. Winder, who with the hastily gathered forces made a determined defense against Wellington's veterans fresh from the scenes of victories in the Napoleonic wars under the leadership of General Ross who had enjoyed a reputation second to none; I certainly believe at this late day no historian who will have access to original sources will repeat the slurs that were so prevalent shortly after the disaster and which forced the Secretary of War, General Armstrong, into retirement, the victim of public clamor; the campaign lasted ten days with its culmination at Bladensburg, where the forces engaged were nearly equal in number; the battle was well contested, especially by the District of Columbia contingent, numbering about 1,100 men, under the command of General Walter Smith, and the sailors of Commander Barney's flotilla, who served their guns with admirable precision until their ammunition was exhausted; the statement that the army was panic-stricken so often mentioned is not based on facts, there was no rout, but the retreat was effected in an orderly manner, although some of the guns had to be abandoned; it is said that when the order was given to retreat, the District contingent was reluctant to leave the field and some even shed tears that they should be compelled to retire; of course the defeat left the road to Washington open, and the enemy entered the city, on their mission of destruction, reaching Capitol Hill about eight o'clock P. M.; the main cause of the British victory was the use of Congreve rockets, missiles of war totally unknown on this side of the Atlantic and which had spread consternation in the ranks of the

French veterans at the battle of Leipsic, a year previous; and which had the tendency to demoralize any troops unacquainted with this naval implement of war; the British forces fled precipitately from the city the following night, after indulging in acts of vandalism disgraceful to England and subsequently condemned by the civilized world; the British casualties were over 1,100 in number, more than one fourth of their total army, and in their retreat they abandoned their wounded to the mercy of their American foe, who attended them with such generosity that it enlisted the grateful acknowledgments of General Ross and Admiral Cockburn; this at least is one of the bright redeeming features of this short campaign and in vivid contrast to the unjustifiable deeds perpetrated by their enemies; as a grandson of one of the British invaders (my maternal grandfather was an officer in the 44th foot), I am happy to be able to pay this tribute to American valor and American humanity; doubtless many mistakes were made, errors of judgment prevailed in disregarding the warning that the Capital might be attacked, but the charges of cowardice against the American army will not be successfully maintained by any historian who dispassionately reviews all occurrences leading up to that fatal August 24, 1814, and who has a due regard for American honor.

Miss Elizabeth Johnston said that the massacre of the Susquehannock Indians is referred to as occurring in the neighborhood of Piscataway Creek. The chief of the Piscataways was, as the essayist noted, spoken of as "the emperor."

General B. K. Roberts, commanding the defenses of the Potomac with headquarters at Fort Washington,

said that with the present armament of the fort it would be an easy matter to sweep the Potomac for miles down stream. Owing, he said, to the elevation of Fort Washington, as well as the batteries on the Virginia side, above water level, the force at this point in the event a hostile fleet came up stream, would be able to pour in a raking fire on the decks of the enemy's ship, which constitute the weakest portion of modern war ships.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE WASHINGTON LIBRARY COMPANY AND OTHER LOCAL LIBRARIES.

By W. DAWSON JOHNSTON.

(Read before the Society January 12, 1903.)

The only libraries in Washington before 1811 were the Washington library* formed in 1797, with Nicholas King, afterwards Surveyor of the city, as librarian, the circulating libraries established by Richard Dinmore and Hugh Somerville in 1801, and the private library of Joel Barlow,† at Kalorama, said to have been the largest and most valuable private library then existing in America. None of these libraries lived to have a history, but the Washington library, established in 1811, remained for the larger part of the century the principal public library of Washington.

The motives which actuated the founders of this first Washington library are set forth in the *National Intelligencer*, March 5 and September 28, 1811. They felt, so they said, that a library like the Philadelphia library founded by Franklin, established on a liberal and comprehensive plan, was a most powerful instrument in forming the morals, in promoting the respectability, and in administering to the instruction and amusement of a community. They also recognized

* Library of Congress. Watterson mss.

† Charles B. Todd, "Life and Letters of Joel Barlow" (1886), pp. 208, 217. There was also a library in Georgetown established by Dr. Stephen B. Balch about 1794, known as the Columbian Library (*National Intelligencer*, July 8, 1801, *Evening Star*, April 1, 1893), and the Anacostia Library, at the house of Gustavus Higdon, corner L Street south and 8th Street, east (*National Intelligencer*, September 11, 1805).

that with the united contributions of those who were sensible of the value of literature, a collection of books might be made in Washington, in a few years, which would embrace the most useful and interesting works in the English language, and cost subscribers hardly more each year than the price of a single volume.

The same reasons that were presented for establishing a library in 1811 were urged again and with greater conviction when the question of a library building was agitated in 1825. At that time the directors of the Washington library addressed a letter to the citizens of Washington through the columns of the local press,* in which they repeated the above arguments, with an added observation upon the importance of good morals and enlightened minds in the community in whose hands rested the government of the United States; but the point upon which the directors laid most emphasis was, that shares in library stock were bargains (the price of a share being twelve dollars, the number of shares two hundred, and the value of the library \$7,000, it was evident enough, that the value of a share was \$35 or three times as much as its cost). Moreover a member of the library for the sum of three dollars a year might obtain for himself and his family the perusal of the three or four hundred volumes added annually, in addition to the five thousand volumes already in the collection.

Actuated by these motives of morality and economy, subscription papers for a Washington library were circulated through the city and the adjacent country by a committee consisting of John Hewitt, Rev. James Laurie, Samuel H. Smith, William James, James H.

* *National Intelligencer*, November 11, 1825, and *Washington Gazette*, of same date, reprinted with slight omissions in the catalogue of 1826, and in the *National Intelligencer*, April 14, 1827.

Blake, Henry Herford, Robert Brent, Joel Barlow, Wm. Cranch, John Law, Franklin Wharton, Thomas Munroe, and Joseph Stretch, and about two hundred subscriptions received. At the same time a constitution was drawn up.

This was published in the *National Intelligencer* March 5, 1811. April 18, 1814, the library company received a charter, which, together with the by-laws first drawn up and published in 1822, took the place of the constitution.

This constitution and the charter and by-laws which superseded it were modelled after those of the Alexandria library.* They provided that any one might become a member of the library company by the purchase of one or more shares of library stock.

The price of a share was \$12,[†] and the annual assessment \$3.[‡]

Shareholders were at liberty to transfer their shares, by a certificate directed to the librarian, provided all arrearages had been paid. Such was the rule in 1822.

* *Journal*, October 7, December 3, 1818. This *Journal*, in three manuscript volumes, was preserved for more than thirty years by the last secretary of the company, Mr. John Meigs, and is now in the custody of the Library of Congress.

[†] Increased to \$15, October 1, 1816 (*National Intelligencer*, October 3); to \$16, July 1, 1827 (*National Intelligencer*, April 14); reduced to \$10 (*Journal*, October 3, 1828; *National Intelligencer*, February 25, 1829); increased to \$12 (rules of 1834); reduced to \$6 (*Journal*, June 9, 1853); increased to \$12, March 27, 1865. Temporary provision was also made for perpetual shares costing \$25, which entitled the proprietor to the use of the books without any annual payment (*Journal*, November 15, 1821; *National Intelligencer*, November 23, 1821).

[‡] *Journal*, August 5, 1818, with an addition of one half of those sums for each additional share taken by one person. The original articles of constitution published in the *Intelligencer*, March 5, 1811, provided that a subscriber might pay the amount of his subscription in such books as might be approved of by the directors, at a fair valuation, to be ascertained by them, provided that subscribers who paid their shares in books, paid the whole amount thereof at the time of subscribing.

In 1828 this rule was explained as follows: Shares in the library company were to be represented by certificates signed by the president and registered by the librarian, and such register was to be attested by his signature. When certificates were lost, new ones might be granted upon the following conditions, viz.: notice of the loss, and of the intention of the proprietors to apply for a new certificate, to be advertised at least once in some daily paper, published in Washington, and to be put up in some conspicuous part of the library for one month, and evidences of notice to be filed with the librarian. Certificates might be transferred by endorsement and not otherwise, but no transfer would be admitted as valid, unless registered by the librarian and such registry attested by his signature.*

No shareholder owing more than one year's assessment was entitled to take out books.† The governing body of the association was a board of directors, seven in number, elected on the first Monday in April, annually, under the direction of such persons as the existing board might appoint, said judges of election to be appointed at least five days previous to the day of election,‡ and their names published in some newspaper printed in the city, at least three days previous to such elections being held, the polls being kept open at the library room from 3 o'clock until 6 P. M. No person who was not at the time of voting, or being voted for, a shareholder in the company, and no shareholder who was in arrears for an annual contribution, fines, or forfeitures, was eligible as a director, or had a right to

* *Journal*, April 14, 1828; *National Intelligencer*, April 19, 1828.

† The original articles of constitution provided that any subscriber who failed to pay up his subscription, or any of them as they became due, should forfeit to the company all their preceding payments.

‡ At the March meeting, By-laws of 1822, art. 2.

vote for a director. All persons qualified to vote, might vote either personally or by proxy, by ballot.

It was the duty of the board of directors, thus elected, to see to the purchase and the procuring of books, to examine from time to time, the accounts of the treasurer, to appoint all other necessary officers, to establish all necessary rules, regulations, and by-laws, and to fill all vacancies which might occur in their body. For the transaction of business the directors held monthly meetings, quarterly meetings, and two annual meetings; monthly meetings for the transaction of business relating to the purchase of books,* quarterly meetings in March, June, September, and December,† at which the treasurer was to make a full report of all subscriptions, contributions, fines, forfeitures, and donations received, and of all moneys paid by him during the preceding three months, together with a statement of all amounts due the library, and from whom due, and the librarian was to make a report of all books missing, or injured in the binding or otherwise, with the names of the shareholders to whom they were last charged; and annual meetings, first,‡ of the old board of directors on the last Monday in March, for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of the library; a list of all books lost or injured, during the preceding year, being entered on the journal of the board, together with the librarian's report giving the names of all shareholders from whom any contributions, fines, or forfeitures were due, and the amount

* *National Intelligencer*, February 5, 1816, at 4 p. m., on the first Wednesday of the month. *National Intelligencer*, May 5, 1818, at 7 p. m., on the second Monday of the month (Rules of 1834); on the first Monday of the month (Rules of 1839).

† At 10 a. m., on the second Thursday (Rules of 1822); at 7 p. m., on the second Monday (Rules of 1834).

‡ This meeting was appointed by resolution of September 17, 1834.

of each. The second annual meeting was held by the new board of directors immediately after their election for the purpose of electing a president, treasurer, and secretary or librarian.* The duties of these officers were as follows: of the president, who must be one of the directors elect, to preside at all stated or special meetings of the board; sign all accounts presented for payment against the institution; and act as superintending committee, charged with the general management of the library, and expected to visit it at least once a week.† Rev. James Laurie, pastor of the F Street Presbyterian Church, was the first president of the company. Rev. Wm. Matthews, pastor of St. Patrick's church, was president from April 18, 1821, until April, 1834. It was the duty of the treasurer to receive and keep all money, books of accounts, bonds, etc., belonging to the company, pay all accounts certified by the president, and render an account of all moneys received and expended, together with a general statement of the funds of the institution at least once in every year. The treasurer was authorized, October 7, 1818, to appoint a collector, and allow a commission on the collections made of ten per cent. This commission was in 1822 reduced to five per cent. It was the duty of the librarian to keep a list of the stockholders, act as secretary to the board of directors and keep a regular journal of their proceedings; keep a full and accurate catalogue of all the books belonging to the company, and enter in such catalogue the titles of all books which from time to time might be added; attend to the delivery and receiving of books at the appointed

* At first on the day after their election; in 1822, on the second Thursday in April; in 1834, at the first regular meeting after the annual election, in 1839, on Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday.

† Rules of 1839.

times, and enter in a book, to be kept for that purpose, the name of every book delivered by him, the name of the person to whom delivered, the times of taking out and returning the same, and the forfeitures arising from every default. The salary of the librarian was at first \$30 per annum. In 1822 this was increased to \$60, and with the daily opening of the library in 1826 to \$80.* In addition to these officers the directors appointed a committee on the examination and purchase of books which was called the purchasing committee and consisted of two members of the board.† Books were purchased with the approbation of the directors, upon the report of this committee, and it was the duty of the librarian to keep open a book in which any shareholder might set down the title of any book, for the consideration of this committee.‡ By 1818 this committee had full authority to purchase books, and draw from the treasurer such moneys as might be appropriated by the board for that purpose, and report to the board at every stated meeting a list of all the books bought, with the cost of each.§ In 1834 a second committee, called the supervising committee, was added. This consisted of four members of the board, the duty of one or more of whom it was to visit the library at least once a week and see to the general management and arrangement thereof. In 1839 these duties were delegated to the president.

The following were the privileges of the library: Every shareholder was at liberty to take out on each share one folio or quarto, or two octavos, or under; and keep the folio four weeks, quarto three weeks,

* *Journal*, February 16, 1813, February 21, 1822, April, 1826.

† *National Intelligencer*, October 3, 1816.

‡ *National Intelligencer*, April 11, 1823.

§ *Journal*, May 13, 1818.

octavo two weeks, duodecimo and under, one week, if residing within the city, and double the above period if residing without the city, with the privilege of renewal,* if not called for on the day on which they were returnable; subject to a penalty of six and a quarter cents for each book, for every library day they were detained over the time limited. The shareholder was not to permit any person to take or read any of the books of the library out of his house, under a penalty of one dollar for each offence, but he might assign over the right of reading; said assignment to be in writing, and directed to the librarian. But in all cases of assignment the shareholder was held responsible for contributions, fines and forfeitures, in the same manner as if no assignment had been made.

Any book, or set of books, having reference to each other, might be taken out, except new publications, one volume of which only could be taken at a time, during the limitation allowed for reading, within the first three months after their receipt into the library, and excepting periodical works† and plays, of which only two volumes could be taken out at a time. Any shareholder applying for a book or set of books which was out, should be informed of the time at which they ought to be returned, and if desired, the librarian was not to give the work to any other person, until one day after that on which it was returnable.

If any member lost or damaged a book, he was to make good the same to the library, and if a book lost was one of a set, he was to pay, at the discretion of the board, the value of an entire set, and receive the residue of the old set.

* Except in the case of new publications, until they had been in the library three months.—Rules of 1834.

† Unbound numbers of periodicals could not be taken from the library, *Journal*, August 15, 1836.

Subscribers were especially requested in sending for books to write down several numbers, distinguishing the size, whether folio, quarto, octavo or duodecimo, that in cases where one book was out, they might not fail to obtain some other that they wished. They were also asked to return the books wrapped up in paper to prevent them from being injured in their carriage by careless servants.* Any person not a permanent resident of the city, or its vicinity, might have the use of the library at the rate of \$5 a year, \$3 for six months, \$2 for three months and \$1 for one month to be paid in advance, a deposit being made with the librarian of double the price affixed for the book or set of books, subject in all other respects to the same regulations as subscribers.

In the purchase of books the purchasing committee were to prefer new and amusing books.† Purchases might be made, it was estimated, at the rate of \$3 for a folio, \$2 for a quarto, \$1 for an octavo, and 60 cents for a duodecimo; an annual expenditure of \$420 would thus pay for 300 volumes a year, a part to be foreign works, one half octavo and the rest duodecimo, or as nearly in that proportion as possible.‡ Donations were to be solicited; for example, on the 16th of May, 1814, it was resolved, that the president be authorized to make application to the agent or agents entrusted therewith for the books which may have been given to Mr. Blodget for the National University.

In the arrangement of the books, folios, quartos, octavos and duodecimos were to stand each by themselves, a distinct series of numbers being given to each class, and a distinct number to each volume, the num-

* Catalogue, 1826, p. 87.

† *Journal*, March 31, 1812.

‡ *Journal*, April 22, 1811; February 21, 1822.

ber to be entered on a label both within the book and without.*

In accordance with this constitution the shareholders met at Davis's Tavern,† Monday evening, April 1, 1811, and chose the following directors for the ensuing year: Rev. James Laurie, president, Buckner Thruston, Samuel H. Smith, Wm. James, John Hewitt, Abraham Bradley, Jr., and Joseph Stretch.‡

And on the 21st of March, 1812, the library was opened in the front room on the first floor of the house on Pennsylvania avenue occupied by Henry Whetcroft, Notary Public, and owned by Esias Travers,§ a location somewhat too far west, but the best that could be obtained on such terms as it was deemed prudent to accept.¶ Jonathan S. Findlay was chosen librarian; and the library was opened on Wednesday from 12 to 2 and on Saturdays from 3 to 6;¶ in winter the Wednesday hours were from 3:30 to 5.** A large table and chairs were the only furniture of the library.†† During 1812 several donations were made to the library and a large and valuable addition of books acquired by purchase.‡‡ In 1814 the use of the library was offered to members of Congress, the library of Congress having been destroyed in the burning of the Capitol, on the 24th of August. And by the end of 1815, in spite of the apathy of many of the shareholders and of discour-

* *Journal*, February 21, 1822; November 3, 1825.

† Now Browns' Marble Hotel.—*News*, November 13, 1853.

‡ *National Intelligencer*, March 28, April 2, 1811.

§ This was on the south side of the avenue between Thirteenth and Thirteenth-and-one-half Streets.

¶ *National Intelligencer*, March 19, 1812.

¶ *National Intelligencer*, March 21, 1812.

** *National Intelligencer*, October 20, 1812.

†† *News*, November 15, 1853.

‡‡ *National Intelligencer*, October 10, 1812.

agements received from those who refused to subscribe, the library numbered 900 volumes.* A 15-page catalogue of these classified by sizes—octavos, quartos, etc., and each size arranged alphabetically—was issued.

In 1817 Gideon Davis was appointed librarian, the library was removed to his bookstore on Pennsylvania avenue† near the theater, and the library room which had hitherto been open for a few hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays only‡ was opened daily except Sunday. During the administration of Gideon Davis the library increased in size to some 1,238 volumes, a 23-page catalogue of which was published in 1819. In 1820 Mr. Davis removed to Georgetown.

The library was now removed to the east end of the upper story of the Post Office building on Seventh street, where it was kept rent free until 1827; and on the 18th of September, 1821, on motion of Samuel Harrison Smith, the following important resolutions were agreed to by the Directors: (1) That a committee be appointed to obtain, if practicable, a loan of \$500 for the purchase of books; (2) that an address to the citizens of Washington on the importance of extending the library be published and their subscriptions on such terms as might seem expedient be solicited; (3) that a memorial to the City Council soliciting their aid be prepared, and (4) that a petition be presented to Congress asking for a copy of the laws and documents of the United States.

On the 18th of October it was reported that a loan of \$500 had been obtained from the Office of Discount and

* *National Intelligencer*, December 20, 1815; October 3, 1816, it contained 1,100 volumes.

† *National Intelligencer*, May 9, 1817.

‡ *National Intelligencer*, March 21, October 20, 1812.

Deposit; February 21, 1822, it was further reported that in response to the appeal to citizens for subscriptions,* and in consequence of the offer of shares, in perpetuity free from annual assessment, on the payment of \$25, and of a reduction of the assessment on assessable shares from three dollars to two dollars, in case two hundred subscriptions were received, forty-one shares in perpetuity had been subscribed for, and 58 annual shares. Among the subscribers for shares in perpetuity were John Quincy Adams, Wm. H. Crawford, John C. Calhoun, James Monroe, then President of the United States, and Baron de Neuville, then Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States from His Majesty the King of France.

And on the 30th of March, 1823, a joint resolution was passed by Congress granting the library a copy of the laws of the United States, Journals of Congress, Documents, and State papers which had been or should be published by authority of Congress.

With this increased income it was resolved by the directors (February 21, 1822) to make a regular annual expenditure for books of \$420, and to open the library more frequently if future subscriptions permitted the additional expenditure for library service. Citizens were informed of these resolutions through the columns of the local press.†

The library was now at the height of its prosperity, and was much frequented both by government officials and by citizens generally.‡ In 1821 it was under the care of George Sweeny, Chief Clerk in the City Post Office; in 1822, under that of John Alexander Adams,

* *Journal*, November 15, 1821; *National Intelligencer*, November 23, 1821.

† *Intelligencer*, March 6, and *Washington Gazette*, March 7, 1882.

‡ *News*, November 13, 1853.

also a clerk in the City Post Office, and from 1823 to 1827 under that of Wm. P. Elliot, a draughtsman in the Patent Office, at that time located in the same building with the Post Office. It was less the services of the librarians, however, than the increase in the number of hours that the library was open and the large increase in the number of books which made the library popular. In 1820 the library had been open on Tuesday and Friday afternoons only,* but in 1821 it was opened on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays,† and in 1822, every day in the week except Sunday from three until sunset.‡

The number of books, moreover, had increased from 1,238 volumes in 1819 to over 2,000 volumes in 1822, a 43-page catalogue of which was published in July of that year. And in 1825 this number was more than doubled by the purchase of the Davis and Force Circulating Library. Before discussing this important event in the history of the Washington Library it is necessary to refer to the history of Force's Circulating Library and of its predecessors.

The first circulating library in Washington was established by Richard Dinmore, at the first door west of the President's square, on Pennsylvania avenue, June 1, 1801. On the 19th of August in the same year Hugh Somerville advertised in the *Intelligencer* the opening of a second circulating library at his liquor and grocery store near the market, saying that he had lately received and was now ready to circulate, a large and

* *National Intelligencer*, June 10, 1820.

† *National Intelligencer*, November 23, 1821.

‡ By-laws, April 1, 1822; *National Intelligencer*, November 11, 1825, April 14, 1826, and on Fridays, from 10 A. M. until 2 P. M. (By-law, April 10, 1823). This does not appear in the By-laws published in 1826, and seems, therefore, to have been but a temporary measure.

valuable collection of novels, history, romances, voyages, travels, etc., which he would lend out to read by the week, month, quarter or year, at his store and residence in a frame building, south side of the Pennsylvania avenue, near the hotel bridge, and three new brick buildings, and the building now erecting for the city of Washington market house, where the terms might be known, and attendance given from nine in the morning till one in the afternoon, and from two till four. The work of the circulating library interfering with his other business, however, Somerville sold his library to John M'Donald, who had formerly kept a circulating library in Philadelphia, and the library was removed to the house of John D. Brashiers, between the President's and the market.* These circulating libraries seem to have failed.

After the war of 1812-14 a third attempt to establish a circulating library in Washington was made by William Prentiss. He began by opening in 1815 a reading room, arguing that an institution of this character was as essential to the circulation of periodical literature as libraries were to the circulation of books. This establishment was located next to Heronimus's Tavern and was advertised as being regularly supplied with at least two of the best papers from each of the principal cities of the union, and not less than one from each state. The proprietor also promised that the best maps of the United States and of each state, and all interesting new publications should be furnished, and that the room should be at all times provided with a good fire, candles, tables, and a writing desk, with pens and ink. But if the establishment was to be permanent, he added, some fifty or sixty subscribers, at an annual fee of ten dollars, were essential; temporary

* *National Intelligencer*, October 30, 1801.

residents of the city might use the room by paying a fee of fifty cents a week. Subscribers were not, however, to be found, and after spending some \$500 and receiving about \$60 only in return the place was closed.* Two months later the reading room reopened as an annex to a lunch room, in Miss Broden's house on Pennsylvania avenue near the theater. The proprietor now hoped to extend its usefulness by adding to it a circulating library, and therefore offered to receive books, maps, etc., as subscriptions, as presents, or as loans to the institution.† No more is heard of these plans of Wm. Prentiss. But in 1819 the Union Circulating Library, kept by Joseph Milligan on High street, Georgetown, was auctioned off,‡ and an opportunity was thus afforded for the realization of Prentiss's plan for the establishment of a circulating library in the city of Washington. This opportunity was taken advantage of by Davis and Force, who on the 12th of August, 1820, opened a circulating library in their book store, adjoining Davis's Hotel, on Pennsylvania avenue.

The terms of subscription to the Washington Circulating Library thus instituted were as follows: For a year, five dollars; for six months, three dollars; for three months, two dollars; for one month, one dollar, payable in advance. The regulations were these: Subscribers were entitled to take out two volumes duodecimo (not parts of two different works) or one volume octavo, or larger, at a time. They might borrow any additional number of books on the same

* *National Intelligencer*, September 3, 1816; February 3, 13 and March 31, 1817.

† *National Intelligencer*, April 8, 1817.

‡ *National Intelligencer*, April 22, 1816; May 20, 1819. Catalogues of this library were published in 1813, 28 pp., 16mo, and in 1815, 44 pp., 16mo.

terms as non-subscribers.* All books might be exchanged once a day, but must not be kept longer than a week, without being renewed. Offences against this rule were finable at the rate of four cents a day a volume for duodecimos, eight cents for octavos, and twelve and a half cents for quartos and folios. Books taken from the library were not to be lent to any person. New publications were to be returned as soon as possible. Subscribers sending for books were to give the numbers of several, and were to return them carefully wrapt up. The proprietors reserved the right of refunding the amount of any subscription if thought proper, or of requiring a deposit equivalent to the value of any books taken. Non-subscribers might borrow books by making a deposit of the full value of the book, and paying for reading a duodecimo ten cents for four days, an octavo twenty cents for six days, and larger works, fifty cents for eight days.

It is apparent from the above that the terms of the Washington Library were more advantageous to subscribers, but as the membership fee of the latter library was prohibitive to some who could afford the annual fee, and as the circulating library offered a large selection of more popular works,† its rivalry was more or less felt by the older institution. Accordingly, on the 9th of June, 1825, the directors of the Washington Library appointed a committee to confer with Mr. Force regarding the purchase of his library. On the 8th of September this committee reported that the number of volumes in Force's Library was about 3,000,

* Instead of the last sentence the first set of regulations read: "Those residing in the country, entitled to an additional volume." Otherwise there was no change in the regulations.

† It had 3,600 in 1822.—*National Intelligencer*, January 12, 1822. Catalogues of this library were published in 1820, 46 pp.; 2d ed., 1820, 69 pages, and 3d ed., December, 1821, 75 pp.

that he would sell them at thirty-five cents in the dollar of their original cost, and that if the company would purchase them he would agree not to engage either directly or indirectly in the future in the establishment of any other library which might interfere with the Washington Library. The purchase was therefore made.

Even before the purchase of the Force Library the Washington Library had felt that its quarters in the Post Office building were inadequate, and had presented a memorial to the City Council (June, 1824) asking for a room for the library in the new City Hall. When, however, the Force Library had been purchased a larger and more convenient room was an imperative necessity.* Accordingly, on the 8th of September, 1825, a committee was appointed to ascertain whether an eligible lot could be obtained on reasonable terms, and if so whether it would be advisable to erect a building for the library. In November the directors addressed a letter to the citizens of Washington through the columns of the *National Intelligencer*,† urging them to become stockholders and thus make possible the erection of a suitable library building.

In May, 1826, a petition was presented by the company to Congress, asking authority to raise \$10,000, by way of lottery for the purchase of a lot and the erection of a building for the use of the library. The Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, in consequence, brought in a bill granting the object, but the bill did not come to a vote.‡ But in the following spring the old Masonic building located on the west

* The library numbered nearly 5,000 volumes, catalogued in 1826 in 87 pages, 16°.

† *National Intelligencer*, November 11; *Washington Gazette*, November 11, 1825, reprinted with slight omissions in the Catalogue of 1826.

‡ *Journal*, June 8, 1826.

side of Eleventh street, west, south of Pennsylvania avenue, between C and D streets, north, opposite Carusi's famous assembly room, where the Post Office now stands, came into the market, and was purchased by the Library Company.

This building, known as the Union lodge building, had been erected in 1804 by Federal and Columbia lodges, the upper room being used for Masonic meetings, the lower being rented to the city for a registrar's office and council chamber, before the erection of the City Hall in Judiciary Square.

This building was occupied by the library until its removal to Lincoln Hall in 1869.

This notice of the early history of Washington libraries would be incomplete without some reference to other society libraries, and to private libraries existing at the time, and without some notice of the book sales at which these libraries were collected or dispersed.

The only society library beside the Washington Library of which I have been able to obtain any notice was the circulating library of the Charitable Society of St. Patrick's Church, a collection for which on the 17th of March, 1823, was announced in the *National Intelligencer* of March 15.

The center for Washington book collectors in the "twenties" was P. Mauro's auction room, on the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Seventh street, opposite the Centre Market. In 1818 he advertised to hold regular book auctions every Wednesday at early candlelight,* and at the beginning of the following year he advertised to hold them Mondays as well as Wednesdays during the winter.† At these sales the fol-

* *National Intelligencer*, Dec. 10, 1818.

† *National Intelligencer*, January 8, 1819.

lowing among other libraries were sold—that of Colonel Wharton, December 16, 1818;* the whole library of John Law and the library of Rudolph Schaer, the latter consisting of books in mathematics, astronomy, botany, chemistry, architecture, ichthyology, conchology and mineralogy in various languages, December 28, 1822,† and the library of Baron Tuyll, Russian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States, April 1, 1826.‡

At the auction room of Nathaniel P. Poor, a collection of law reports, history, travels, politics, etc., embracing the law library of Governor Wright and selections from the libraries of Wm. Pinckney and William C. Somerville, was sold January 29, 1828.§

* *National Intelligencer*, December 10, 1818.

† *National Intelligencer*, December 27, 1822.

‡ *National Intelligencer*, April 1, 1826.

§ *National Intelligencer*, January 26, 1828. Catalogues of all these sales were advertised, but I have found none of them.

JOHN BARNES, A FORGOTTEN PHILANTHROPIST OF GEORGETOWN.

BY MISS CORDELIA JACKSON.

(Read before the Society February 9, 1903.)

"Honor is but an empty bubble," says the poet Dryden, but in these degenerate days when the public estimate of a man's character passes for the true valuation, the unsullied reputation of our nation's heroes cannot be too constantly blazoned before our citizens. To the earnest thinker the greatest hero is the philanthropist, but to the unthinking he is a commonplace individual, made prominent by force of circumstances. It is safe to say that the latter view is held by the majority, and unfortunately his fame is too often matter either of "conventional acquiescence or of ungenerous cavil." But that we may judge more clearly in this matter, let us briefly review some of the phases of the life of John Barnes, the intimate friend and confidential agent of Thomas Jefferson, one of the actors in the drama of 1776, a prominent citizen of Georgetown from the birth of its sister city across the creek, and a friend of the poor from his earliest manhood. His was no passive nature, swayed by every chance breeze, but a strong, loving heart, a gifted mind cultivated by educational advantages, travel and the society of statesmen and scholars. For more than a quarter of a century he was identified with the interests of Georgetown. Acquainted with even the most minor details of her history, familiar with her high achievements, jealous of her honor and zealous in his advocacy of her rights, he brought to bear all his personal

influence for her support. He was popular in all circles, social and official, and by his large and substantial benevolences sought to alleviate suffering whenever it was brought to his notice, thus preaching a gospel the skeptic could neither gainsay nor resist. But despite all that he did and all that he sought to accomplish, to-day he has neither recognition nor fame in that section of the District where his name should be one of our dear, household words.

Mr. Barnes was a native of England, having been born in the town of Norwich in 1730. England was seething with excitement at the Scottish rebellion, and no doubt the lad's imagination was quickened by the romantic stories and partisan songs of the Jacobites. Day by day he would hear discussed the contending claims of the House of Stuart and House of Hanover, and with a boy's eagerness listened to the accounts of the battles of Dettingen, Minden and Fontenoy. When he entered into manhood, war was still the paramount theme, for Lord Clive was establishing in India for all time to come the supremacy of Great Britain over French invader and native prince, as some years later, General Wolfe in Canada completed the conquest of "La Nouvelle France."

At the age of thirty, he came to America, settling in New York, and accumulating such information as proved of service to him when he held responsible positions under the Government at its permanent seat in Washington. Clouds were gathering in the political firmament and Mr. Barnes was among the first to perceive that a break with England was necessary for the peace of the colonies. He offered his services to the Continental Army and declared he was ready to die for his adopted country. The record shows him at North River, where he remained until New York was evacuated and peace was proclaimed.

When Congress convened in Philadelphia, Mr. Barnes removed thither, renewing his acquaintance with Washington, Alexander Hamilton and other heroes of the Revolution. Secretary of State Jefferson saw in the young Englishman the imprint of a man cast in a heroic mould and the two became forever linked with the life and times of each other. Jefferson's admiration for his new friend is attested in a letter to Mr. Barnes, then in Philadelphia, written from Monticello under date of June 29, 1811. * * * "If you could recommend any merchant there who would purchase for me on commission as faithfully and kindly as you used to do, it would be a valuable service to me, as soon as I am in a state to avail myself of it." In this same letter he expresses sympathy for Mr. Barnes' increasing feebleness and wishes him a speedy return to health. Again, "I wish you had thought a visit to Monticello as friendly to your views of health as Philadelphia. I am persuaded it would have been as much so, and been received with more welcome in our tranquil seclusion than the bustle and distraction of a great town will admit. Try it the next experiment you make with the same view and follow afterward the course which shall have proved itself most favorable and accept in the meantime my prayers for a longer continuance of the blessings of strength, health and happiness."

Mr. Barnes testified to his love and appreciation of Jefferson by the following item in his will:

"Lastly suffer me to add to my wishes that my Likeness, set in a gold frame, taken in 1820 by Mr. Wood of Philadelphia, together with a print of the late General Kosciusko, in a black frame, may be respectfully presented to Thomas Jefferson at his seat Monticello, Virginia, presuming they would be acceptable, and add to his numerous Gallery Col-

lection, as a token of grateful remembrance for the many favors received and confidences reposed in me for more than twenty-five years agency in conducting his own private funds, as well as those of his deceased and distinguished and much lamented friend whose memory will be ever dear to this country."

Numerous references, in the Jefferson-Barnes correspondence, to the financial concerns of Gen. Kosciusko leave no doubt as to the identity of the friend referred to above. In one letter Jefferson declares that the time necessary to settle the estate would take more time than Kosciusko presumably has to live, and therefore he must beg Mr. Barnes to undertake this affair also.

On the 16th day of July, 1790, President Washington appended his approval to the act of Congress which established the seat of government on the banks of the Potomac. The information regarding the removal is very meager, but according to the newspapers of the day, Mr. Barnes was among those who accompanied the heads of the departments. There were no suitable dwelling places in the new capital except for the laborers who were building the metropolis, and Mr. Barnes took up his residence in Georgetown. He became the owner of a superb estate and many slaves and lived in princely style among the gentry of that period. Statesmen, dignified and influential, gathered around his board and "forgot the thorns of public controversy under the roses of private cheerfulness."

On the sixth of May, 1806, President Jefferson appointed Mr. Barnes collector of customs at the port of Georgetown, a position he filled with dignity and efficiency for nearly twenty years. Overtaken by a fatal illness, his strength gradually declined and on the 11th

of February, 1826, his gentle spirit yielded itself to its Maker. Two days later his remains were borne to their last resting place in the Presbyterian cemetery on Thirty-third street, where a neat marble slab, bearing the following inscription, was erected to mark the spot.

“SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
JOHN BARNES ESQ.
WHO DIED IN GEORGETOWN
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
February 11, 1826
in the 96th year
of his age.

“A native of England but left it sixty years before his death: a man of great integrity and great benevolence. He bequeathed his property to support the poor widows and orphans, and to aid in establishing and supporting a poor-house.”

The following obituary notice appeared in the *Metropolitan*, a weekly paper published in Georgetown, under date of February 18, 1826:

“John Barnes, Collector of the Port of Georgetown, died in town February 11, 1826, in the 96th year of his age. He was a native of Norwich in England but came to N. Y. prior to the Revolution. When N. Y. was taken by the British he removed up the North River but returned to the city after the restoration of peace. When Congress removed to Philadelphia Mr. Barnes settled in that city and in 1800 removed to Georgetown. After freeing and providing legacies for his slaves, the remainder of his estate was left to build a Poor House and provision was made for the support of the same.”

“Where is the grave of John Barnes?” is an oft-repeated question. In a deserted burying-ground

whose tall forest trees shade the terraced hills overlooking Thirty-fifth street, lie the remains of this Christian gentleman. The walls around his grave have been leveled, the bricks used in the foundations of neighboring houses, and the marble slab thrown aside. The brown gravel walks are overgrown with sickly green moss, and weeds and briers grow in luxuriant profusion, where honeysuckles and roses once cast their slender streamers. Should any one chance to stray into this forbidding looking place, he will find it studded with tombstones, many of them cracked or broken, with their inscriptions nearly effaced or wholly illegible, while many others have shared a similar fate with the bricks and may be found as doorsteps for nearby negro shanties.

That the welfare of the poor "was most in his thought and ever in his sight" while living, was confirmed in his last will and testament.

After setting free his slaves, Abigail and Nellie Gray, and bequeathing to them sufficient bed and bedding, to the former sixty dollars and to the latter forty dollars per annum during their natural lives, he bequeathed \$200 per annum forever, in wood, meal and clothing, to be distributed by his executors at the most convenient season of the year to the poor and necessitous widows and orphans in the corporation of Georgetown. He then states:

"It has often occurred to me that the time was not far distant (indeed it has already become urgently necessary) when a poor-house or bettering house for the county or town (it matters not by what denominated) should be established, and if proposed through this honorable and respectable corporation of Georgetown, I doubt not that it would be ultimately successful, and thereby a good foundation would be laid towards perfecting a useful and meritorious work, worthy of

the enlightened, benevolent and opulent inhabitants of the District and its vicinity, and the humane at large; of contributing to the comfort and improvement of the suffering objects of such institutions.

“Whenever any progressive proceedings towards such an end become certain and conclusive, a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars, as occasionally wanted and demanded, I freely bequeath towards its establishment, and I do direct my executors, having a regard to the bequests heretofore contained, to pay the same to the authorities having power and right to receive the same for such a purpose. And as the establishment of a poor-house, hospital or bettering house for this county or town, is an object very near my heart, I do direct that if my executors or trustees for the time being, shall in the exercise of the discretion hereby vested in them, suffer the surplus, the annual proceeds to accumulate, then I give another one thousand dollars out of such accumulation in addition to what I have herein-before directed to be applied to that purpose as aforesaid, in further aid of the establishment and maintenance of such poor-house, hospital or bettering house, but neither of such bequests is to be applied until my executors or trustees for the time being, shall perceive that such proceedings have been begun as will render the final accomplishment and completion of such poor-house, or hospital, reasonably certain.”

“But the best laid plans of mice and men
Aft gang aglea.”

John Barnes' will was no exception, and his great-granddaughters, whose future he considered would be sufficiently provided for by their grandfather, were the ones to frustrate his charitable intentions. His nearest relatives were the daughters of his late grandson, George Clinton Duryee, Hannah Duryee, aged eighteen, and Susan Duryee, aged sixteen, residing in New York. It was his intention to take them under his

paternal care, after the death of their father in 1822, "support and complete their education and manners." His request was steadily refused through the opposition of their step-mother, Hannah Duryee, and having been informed by the executors of their late grandfather, Abraham J. Duryee, a merchant of New York, who died in 1796, that they would inherit this estate valued at \$40,000, John Barnes felt himself justified in leaving the whole of his fortune to the poor.

Although the town was chartered in 1789 and amendments to the same were made in 1797, also by Congress in 1805, 1809 and 1824, it was not discovered until John Barnes died that the town had no charter to build a poor-house. An application was made to Congress and authority given by the act of May 20, 1826, when an ordinance was passed by the corporation on December 20, 1826, that "James S. Morsell, John Little, John Baker, William G. Ridgely, Daniel Buzzard, John McDaniel, Charles A. Burnett, and Gideon Davis, with the mayor of the town as their president, shall constitute a board of trustees for the poor of Georgetown until the first Monday in January, 1828, and until their successors be appointed."

The amount of inventory returned by the executors, Charles A. Burnett and David English, was \$13,856.52 and a house on ground rent so heavy that it would not sell for anything.

On December 6, 1827, a bill was filed in the Court of Chancery for Hannah Duryee and Susan Duryee, by their next friend Henry Dean, setting forth that they were John Barnes' sole surviving descendants, heirs-at-law, and only legal representatives; that the bequest for a poor-house was void for uncertainty, and that the property mentioned resulted to the benefit of the complainants; that no steps had been taken to induce any

reasonable belief that a poor-house or other house for the reception and maintenance of the poor would be undertaken and brought to a successful result by any person of the corporation, and that the money should be paid to them unless some certain effectual steps be taken in a reasonable time to erect and maintain such an institution.

In Vol. 3 of Cranch's "Circuit Court Reports of the old Circuit Court of the District of Columbia" (abolished in 1863) there is a report of the suit between the heirs of Mr. Barnes on one side, and his executors and the corporation of Georgetown on the other. In this report it appears that the heirs of Mr. Barnes were entirely successful in having all the charitable bequests of the will declared null and void by the court.

Tradition says that an appeal was taken and the suit finally settled by compromise, the heirs agreeing to pay to the mayor of Georgetown \$3,000 before October 1, 1828, but on August 20, of that year the mayor was authorized to receive \$4,000 in stock of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank in Georgetown in lieu of \$3,000 in cash. We know that on July 9, 1830, the corporation purchased of Elisha W. Williams for \$1,700, lots 259 and 260 containing $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres, also part of a lot called Pretty Prospect (adjoining) containing 8 acres and 12 perches, as a site for the poor-house. On November 6, 1830, the trustees were authorized to contract for the building of a poor-house, the cost not to exceed \$5,000 and a sum of fifty dollars was to be offered for the best plan. The corner-stone of this building was laid with Masonic rites on March 9, 1831.

When Georgetown became a corporate part of Washington, in 1885, the inmates of the poor-house were removed to the one on the Eastern Branch, while the site of the former is to-day occupied by the Industrial

School. It would thus seem that through no fault of the trustees or municipal officers, the beneficent intentions of John Barnes toward Georgetown have been deflected from their original channel and lost their identity in the vast ocean of District charities. England had her Wilberforce, France her La Rochefoucauld, Germany her Wichern and Georgetown her John Barnes.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF PONTIUS D. STELLE.

By MISS MAUD BURR MORRIS.

(Read before the Society February 9, 1903.)

In no other city in this country does the population change as it does in Washington, which is unique in that it is primarily a great Government settlement, although now recognized as rapidly becoming a center for other interests—scientific, literary, artistic and even manufacturing, according to recent statistics—as well as a place of winter residence for many wealthy and influential persons who are no longer engaged in any settled occupation.

But in spite of the constant fluctuation in its population, due principally to political changes, there is a certain element of stability in a class of old residents whose ancestors came here with the Government in 1800 or thereabouts, or were already established on the site of the present District of Columbia before that date; but on making inquiries, one would be surprised to learn how few, comparatively, can claim Washington as the home of their forefathers.

It is at the request of the Columbia Historical Society that I have undertaken to write a short sketch of the life and times of Pontius D. Stelle, my great-grandfather, who was one of those pioneers who came here with the Government about May, 1800, and I want at the start to disclaim all responsibility for talking for a half hour on a subject so entirely personal—as my great-grandfather was in no sense an official character.

My memory, although a good one, does not extend

back quite a century, so anything I know of the times of which I write, has been gathered from fireside talks with my grandmother when I was a child, but when one tries to record reminiscences with some degree of accuracy after a lapse of years, it is astonishing how vague and elusive they become.

To begin at the beginning, it will be observed that Stelle is a French name, and Pontius D. Stelle was of Huguenot ancestry, his great-grandfather (Poncet Stelle) having left France shortly before the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes (during which period the persecution of the Huguenots was in no degree lessened), and perhaps a brief sketch of his ancestry will be of interest to some. Contrary to the usual tradition that three brothers "went sailing out into the West," Poncet Stelle was the only one of his family to make America the goal of his ambitions—some of his relatives having gone to Holland and others to South Africa.

From a pamphlet written by Mr. O. B. Leonard, of Plainfield, New Jersey, entitled "Outline Sketches of the Pioneer Progenitors of the Piscataway Planters," the following extract is taken:

"The progenitor of all the Stelles in the United States was a Frenchman named Poncet Stelle * * * born about 1645, and living at the time of his emigration to this country, about 1665, in the South-western part of France. * * * From the records of the French Protestant Church in New York City, of which he was a member, it is learned that Poncet Stelle came from Lorieres, France. A town of the same name at the present time is near the manufacturing city of Limoges. * * * South-easterly from Poitiers, which was one of the strongest citadels of Huguenot faith. * * * Poncet Stelle was one of the early French settlers on Staten Island * * * and about 1678, several Huguenot families * * * moved to

New York City, among * * * them was 'Sieur Poncet Stelle des Loriers' as he is best known in public print."

But before settling in America proper, he went to the island of St. Christopher's in the West Indies, as shown by a passport issued in 1680 by Sir Edmund Andros, Governor of the Colony of New York, to Francis Guichard bound for "Iameca," in which it is

"Sertified under the hand of Symon Broadstreete Esq: Governo: of his Maj: Collony of the Mattachusetts that the Councell there haue Receiued Sertificates from the ffrrench Protestant Church att S: Christophers on the behalfe of M: Poncellstell called the Larier and Francois Guichard two French Gentlemen, that they haue renounced the Romish Religion in which they were borne and bred And haue Imbraced the true faith and protestant Religion professing their Resolucon to liue and Dye therein And that thereupon they had p'mitted them wth their wiues and families to Inhabitt in their Iurisdicon. * * *"

This passport is recorded in a manuscript volume entitled "Orders, Warrants, etc.," in the custody of the regents of the University of the State of New York in the State Library at Albany.

Poncet Stelle brought over with him two portraits of middle-aged persons, undoubtedly his parents, as he was quite young and unmarried when he left France, and his wife (whom he married in New York City) was born in the Island of St. Martin's in the West Indies, and probably never was in France; but up to the present time I have been unable to ascertain the names of the originals of the portraits or that of the artist, but they are paintings of a very high order. They are still in the family, and although much discolored by time, are in a good state of preservation, as

are also the original frames of fine French workmanship of the time of Louis XIV.

In one of the portraits a bullet hole is plainly visible in one corner, and the following story is told in explanation: One day during the Revolutionary War a member of the family happened to be standing in the drawing room while wearing a scarlet cloth cloak, and was observed by a hot-headed but patriotic passer-by, who mistook the cloak for the uniform of a British officer; he rashly fired at her through the window, but fortunately the bullet passed through the portrait instead of the person at whom it was aimed.

Poncet Stelle in 1682 married Mademoiselle Eglise or Eugenie Legereau in New York City, and in the archives of the little French church above mentioned, and now located in Twenty-second street in that city, is the first Register, containing the baptismal notices of three of their seven children, in old and very quaint French.

The second of these children, Gabriel Stelle, born in 1685, was the next in direct line, and (to again quote Mr. Leonard) "attained a * * * greater distinction in social and political affairs than any of his brothers. * * * He established a ferry between South Amboy and Staten Island * * * and became not only a very wealthy man and a large property owner in Monmouth County, New Jersey, but an influential churchman, being a warden in old St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church at Amboy." In Whitehead's "Early History of Perth Amboy," he is mentioned several times, and in an account of St. Peter's Church, a diagram is shown locating his pew. He was married three times, his first wife being Elizabeth Wooley.

Of Pontius Stelle, the eldest son of Gabriel and Elizabeth Stelle, I have little information beyond the

fact that he was born on May 12, 1705, was a member of the Assembly in 1746, and a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. In 1764 and 1765 he was elected vestryman of St. Michael's Church at Trenton, New Jersey, where the family was then located. In 1761 or 1762 he married Mrs. Rachel Hooton Barnes, a widow, and among their children was the subject of this paper, Pontius Delare Stelle, born in Trenton, February 15, 1763, the fourth generation of Stelles in this country.

It is easy to see how this son came by the name of Pontius, but as to the name of Delare, there is a very pretty tradition as to the truth of which I have grave doubts. It has been handed down in the family for the past two hundred and fifty years or more that a certain Pontius Stelle of the French Army was aide de camp to one of the kings of France, and on one occasion while in battle the king's horse was killed under him; his aide, Stelle, immediately presented his own horse to the king, who thereupon bestowed upon him the title or additional name of "De-la-re" or "for the king." Since this time, it is said, the eldest son in the family has always been named "Pontius Delare Stelle."

As a matter of fact, even the name Pontius does not occur in the second generation in America, and the name Delare does not appear on record at all, as far back as I can trace, before the time of my great-grandfather, except as a descriptive term *after* the name, probably a place of residence. So much for tradition. A logical deduction from reading the baptismal notices I have mentioned before seems to be that the name Delare is simply an anglicized form of "Des Lorières," as those records variously describe the original emigrant to this country, as "poncet stelle, sieur des Lorières," "Poncet Stelle de Laurier" and "poncet

stelle, dit desloriers''; and in the certificate from the church at St. Christopher's he is described as "Mr. Poncellstell, called the Larier."

All reminiscences of Pontius D. Stelle's childhood seem to be lost, although it was during the exciting and critical time of the Revolutionary War, but we know that he resided in Trenton in the house (still standing) at the corner of Perry and Warren streets, which in December, 1776, was taken as headquarter guard house of the Anglo-Hessian troops in Trenton under Col. Johann Gottlieb Rall. It was in front of this house that the six guns of the Hessian artillery were parked on the day of the famous battle of Trenton, December 25, 1776.

The next definite record we have of Pontius D. Stelle is in 1788, when he became a member of Trenton Lodge No. 5 of the Masonic order.

About this time and onward he is said in Raum's "History of Trenton" to have been one of the most prominent residents and was the first treasurer of the city of Trenton, being one of the officers named under the charter granted by the Legislature to the State of New Jersey, November 21, 1792. He was an active official and had large business interests in and around Trenton, of the nature of which I am entirely ignorant.

In 1793, while city treasurer and a warm personal friend of Richard Howell, the first governor of New Jersey, Pontius D. Stelle met and afterwards married Mrs. Beulah Burr Wharton, a young widow, who for some years past had assumed the social responsibilities of the governor's mansion, as her sister, Mrs. Howell, was somewhat of an invalid.

As were his father, grandfather and great-grandfather before him, so Pontius D. Stelle was also an Episcopalian (as the family has continued ever since),

and the records of the meetings of the vestry of St. Michael's Church in Trenton show his election as vestryman for the years 1794 to 1799 inclusive, after which time he left for Washington, attracted no doubt by the speculative features outlined in the glowing prospectus of the new capital city which was so extensively circulated at that time in all large cities in this country and abroad too, I believe.

As I said before, Pontius D. Stelle was in no sense an official character during his residence of over a quarter of a century in Washington, but simply a private citizen, so there are no records of an official nature to consult for light on the subject of his life in this city; but I turned naturally to that unfailing source of information in research into the past, the *National Intelligencer*, and was rewarded to some extent by indirect bits of information.

Soon after his arrival here he opened a hotel for the entertainment of Congressmen principally, but he seems to have moved so frequently that it has puzzled all who have had occasion to investigate the subject, to settle definitely the various locations, and none more than myself. For some years constant reference was made in the *Intelligencer's* columns to entertainments and meetings of various kinds being held at "Mr. Stelle's well-known hotel," with the occasional additional information (?) that it was situated on Capitol Hill.

On March 21, 1805, appeared a notice that the hotel "for some years past occupied by Pontius D. Stelle" was for sale or rent, and in another place added, with what seems like sarcasm to one who has spent hours pouring over dusty volumes of finest print, that "the location is so well known that it is unnecessary to say more." However, we have thus far learned that he

had been located in one place for several years, which is one point gained.

A few days later, the following notice appeared in the *Intelligencer*:

"STELLE'S HOTEL
"CITY TAVERN.

"The subscriber takes this method of thanking his friends and the public for their favors whilst on the Capitol Square, and begs leave to acquaint them that having purchased and now occupying the Tavern, late Tunnicliff's hotel, which he has commenced enlarging and improving, he respectfully solicits a continuance of the patronage etc.

"PONTIUS D. STELLE."

So in leaving Capitol Square for Tunnicliff's, a definite location was mentioned for the first time. As is well known, Capitol Square was the name given to Square 687, which now forms the extreme northeastern corner of the present Capitol grounds.

I add an outline of the Capitol grounds as they then existed and some neighboring squares, showing the locations of the different hotels mentioned in this paper.

It is very probable that Capitol Square was the place where Pontius D. Stelle first settled on coming to Washington, as there is no notice of a previous removal, and if this be so, here was the birthplace of my grandmother, Elizabeth Hooton Stelle, September 27, 1800.

Tunnicliff's, Mr. Stelle's second or next home in Washington, was on the southeast corner of First and A streets, northeast. He purchased this property (being Lots 16, 17 and 18 in Square 728) in 1804 and continued to own it until 1811, when he sold it to Mr. Peter Miller, a well-known baker of that day.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. William W. Birth (whose name is well known to all who are interested in the early history of our city) who, at the advanced age of ninety-four years, has drawn for me from memory, a sketch of this old hotel as it appeared when he was a child, and in a very interesting letter accompanying the sketch, he describes it as follows:

“The house was erected in the last decade of the eighteenth century, about 1795. It was built of red brick, the front on A street being profusely ornamented with dressed and moulded free stone from the same quarries that supplied the material used in the President’s mansion and the older parts of the Capitol. There was a side building adjoining on the east of the main structure, used * * * as a dining room, and extensive stabling in the rear to accommodate coaches and teams arriving daily from Baltimore.”

Mr. Birth also calls attention to the shutters, which were the solid wood panels then in vogue and known as the Philadelphia style.

As is well known, this building was torn down in 1814 to make room for the brick Capitol hurriedly erected by a company of energetic residents of Capitol Hill, to accommodate the houses of Congress so that the then contemplated project of moving the seat of government to Trenton might be defeated. It is also well known that the old Capitol was used as a prison during the Civil War, and was the scene of the execution of Wurz, the “Fiend of Andersonville.”

My great-grandfather’s stay in this place was of short duration, as a few months after settling there, the *Intelligencer* contained the announcement that the subscriber (Pontius D. Stelle) “has taken the Spacious Hotel lately erected by Mr. Carroll near the Capitol; the hotel being above 100 feet in front, and con-

taining 50 rooms, enables the subscriber to offer every accommodation to members of Congress and travelers." This was the collection of buildings known then, and in fact up to the time they were demolished a few years ago to make room for the present Library of Congress, as "Carroll's Row," and was on the square next south of Tunnicliff's old place. During the Civil War these buildings were used as a place of detention for female spies.

From early recollection of my grandmother, from hearsay and from the *Intelligencer's* columns, we know that the Stelle hotels were of the highest order in point of accommodations and class of guests, and were run on the most extravagant scale, no expense being spared to make them models of comfort and luxury according to the fashions and limitations of the day. I have understood that my great-grandfather brought \$70,000 from Trenton, which he sunk in his various hotel undertakings, and that sum would have gone a great deal further in those days than at present.

My grandmother had a dim remembrance of the First and A Street location, with its immense, well-kept garden extending half a square or more, but her earliest distinct recollection was of living in Carroll's Row. One of the four houses of which it was composed was used as the private residence of the family, and they had their own slaves and horses and carriages.

I have heard it related that among the guests stopping at Stelle's Hotel in the early eighteen hundreds, was a man who had some claim before Congress. As there had been the usual delay of months, and perhaps years, he became very despondent, so my great-grandfather invited him to make his home with him temporarily, hoping thereby to relieve his anxiety while waiting for action by Congress on his claim, but it was

unavailing, as a few nights later the man committed suicide by cutting his throat. The next day Congress allowed the claim.

About the same time, a special embassy arrived from Turkey and made Stelle's Hotel its headquarters. A member of the embassy presented my great-grandmother, among other things, with a large bottle of the genuine attar of roses and a small chest of the flowers of tea. This tea was so fragrant that upon simply removing the lid of the chest the whole room would be filled with the perfume. The chest is still in existence, but the tea was used long ago in the delightful afternoon gatherings for which Mrs. Stelle and her husband's half-sister, Mrs. De Cow, were famous in those picturesque days of stiff brocades and powdered coiffures when the ladies dispensed this favorite beverage with toasted muffins, while for the gentlemen, who would promenade up and down the immense rooms with polished floors reflecting the light of dozens of wax candles in silver or brass candelabra, there was hot apple toddy, a silver tankard of which stood steaming on the hob in the open fireplace.

Stelle's Hotel for a number of years seemed to have been headquarters for meetings of all kinds, particularly of a social nature, as shown by announcements in the local paper, a few of which I cannot help quoting.

Under date of November 21, 1800,

"The Managers of the Washington Assemblies inform the Subscribers that the first Assembly will be held at Mr. Stelle's Hotel on Thursday evening next, 25th instant, at half after 5 o'clock."

And on November 26, 1800, followed this account of the function:

“Last evening the first Dancing Assembly for the season was held at Mr. Stelle’s. The Company, consisting of above 100 ladies and gentlemen, among the latter of whom were several public characters and members of the federal legislature, assembled at an early hour. The exhibition was flattering to the expanding prospects of Washington; and the universal spirit of good humor and gaiety which prevailed, is the truest evidence of the amicable sentiments which characterize in an eminent degree, the citizens of the metropolis.”

It will be noticed that early hours were popular in those days.

On the day before the 4th of July of the same year, it was announced that—

“A Dinner in celebration of the day will be given tomorrow at Stelle’s Hotel. We are desired to state that it will be on the table precisely at 4 o’clock.”

On the 8th of the month was a notice of the event, of which the following is an extract:

“At 4 o’clock a large company composed of the heads of Departments, other officers of the Government, strangers of distinction and citizens, set down to a handsome dinner provided at Stelle’s Hotel, Mr. Robert Brent, Mayor of the city, in the chair. * * * Toasts were drunk, each followed by a discharge of artillery and a patriotic air by the band.”

Then followed eighteen toasts with the appropriate music for each one.

This custom of celebrating Independence Day seems to have been followed annually for some years, and among the guests mentioned as present and responding to toasts on one such occasion, were Alexander Hamilton and General Wilkinson. After twenty toasts had been despatched, it is a relief to read that

“at dark the company separated after spending a day marked by universal temperance, harmony and order.”

Other happenings of an entertaining nature were “A Grand Fencing Exhibition with the broad and small swords” at which the Marine Band played. Also a “Mr. Generes informs his friends and the public that his Practising Balls will commence at Mr. Stelle’s Ball Room and will continue there every week. He flatters himself that the ladies will favor him with their company.”

By 1807 Carroll’s Row was advertised for rent, and I have not carried my investigation of the hotel question any further at this time. Whether it was failing health, financial losses, great competition in this line of business, or a pronounced lack of business ability (which I strongly suspect), or all these combined, I cannot say, but about 1812—the date is uncertain—my great-grandfather sold out his hotel and accepted a position in the office of the Comptroller of Currency in the Treasury Department, which position he held up to the time of his death on March 10, 1826.

He was Secretary of the Board of Common Council from 1812 to 1818, and the records of those days are probably in his handwriting. He was a member of Federal Lodge of Masons in this city, and it is said that his funeral was a remarkably large one for even a Masonic funeral. He is buried in Congressional Cemetery.

Personally he was a genial and immensely popular man with very courtly manners, with hosts of friends, and liked by all who knew him. It was only a few years ago that a very old employee of the Treasury Department mentioned having known my great-grandfather in his latter days, and described him as belong-

ing to the "silk stocking gentry." While keeping a hotel, my great-grandfather entertained as guests in the true sense of the word, more often than he accepted money from guests who proved agreeable and congenial, and this hospitable spirit was largely responsible for his undoing later on.

To give an instance of his popularity it is related that after certain heavy losses and the consequent failure of his hotel, a number of his friends begged to be allowed to present him with a piece of ground and to erect a hotel building for him, but my great-grandfather would not accept a favor of such magnitude from them.

In appearance he was rather tall and commanding, and a miniature of him at the age of twenty-seven years, if a true picture, shows an amiable and benevolent countenance. This miniature, which is almost invariably mistaken for a likeness of General Washington, was painted in 1790 by James Peale, an intimate friend, who frequently rode over from Philadelphia to Trenton to visit him; the miniature is considered a beautiful example of the work of James Peale, who has also painted another of my great-grandfather at the age of nineteen years, but which lacks the finish of the later work.

It was the custom in those days to wear powdered wigs, but Pontius D. Stelle had a naturally heavy suit of hair and for some unaccountable reason it became white before he was twenty years old, so he did not have to resort to art to obtain the fashionable effect.

His wife was unusually attractive in appearance, but being a Quaker or Friend, never perpetrated such a piece of vanity as having her portrait painted, much to the regret of her descendants. She was Miss Beulah Burr, great-granddaughter of Henry Burr, who

came from Engand in 1680 with William Penn, and settled Burlington County, New Jersey; she was one of the young ladies selected on account of her beauty to strew flowers before General Washington, and to sing the ode specially written for the occasion, on his triumphal entry into Trenton in 1789 while en route to New York for his first Inauguration.

During the War of 1812, at the time of the attack on Washington, my great-grandmother personally interviewed General Ross, Commander of the British troops (whose headquarters were only one square from her home at that time) on behalf of a widow who owned the building at the corner of Seventh and D Streets (which was then the home of the *National Intelligencer*), representing to him that the income derived from the rent of the building was the sole means the widow had for the support of herself and several young children. General Ross was quite sympathetic, but Admiral Cockburn of the British Navy, a very pompous individual, roughly replied that "the innocent must suffer with the guilty." After a warm discussion, General Ross assured Mrs. Stelle that he would see that the presses and type alone suffered, if she would have lighted candles placed in the windows of the building in question. He also warned her similarly to protect her own home.

Among the members of my great-grandfather's household when he came to Washington, was his half-sister, Mrs. Rachel De Cow. During the Revolutionary War she lived in Trenton in the large brick house (still standing, I believe, on the corner of West Hanover and Warren Streets,—West Hanover being then known as De Cow's Alley), which in 1798 became the residence of President Adams when he was driven from Philadelphia by the smallpox scourge. Before

coming to Washington, Aunt De Cow liberated all her slaves, and with the money derived from the sale of her family silver, sent them to Liberia, but they all came back in the end.

My great-grandparents had eight children, three of whom (Henry, Richard Howell, and William De Cow Stelle) were born in Trenton before 1800, and five (Elizabeth Hooton, Mary Burr, Pontius Delare, Edward Barnes, and Thomas Johnson Stelle) were born in Washington. The eldest son, Henry, was an unusually intelligent child, and it is a fact that he was a good Latin scholar when only seven years old, so it is not to be wondered that he died at the early age of eight, especially mourned by his Aunt De Cow, who had a miniature painted on ivory, representing herself weeping at his tomb; on an urn one can still read in microscopic letters the words "Not lost but gone before," and over all is a weeping willow tree made of the hair of the young scholar. But he was not the only member of his family who possessed literary ability, as his sister Mary was quite a poetess, although her works were never published, she too dying in comparative youth.

My grandmother, Elizabeth Hooton Stelle, is said to have been the first white child, or at least the first white girl, born in this city after it became the seat of government, but I have no reliable authority for this statement. She attended a young ladies' school in Philadelphia, but made frequent visits home, and as these trips took the best part of a week (as they travelled by stage in those days) she was always accompanied by her maid, Betsy Benjamin, a Jewess. While returning home at the close of the War of 1812, the rivers were frozen over, and as they approached the Schuylkill, heralds were seen coming across the ice to pro-

claim peace, tidings of the treaty signed at Ghent having just reached Washington, and the telegraph not having been invented. It was an impressive and thrilling sight.

Of the other children of Pontius D. Stelle I need only mention Edward B. and Thomas J. Stelle, who were probably known to some of those present here to-night and both of whom are now dead, the former having been Assistant Librarian of Congress from about 1830 to 1861, when he was suspected of being in sympathy with the South and so was replaced by Mr. Spofford. In proof that he was a strong Union man, Mr. Edward Stelle was immediately appointed to a responsible position in the War Department by Secretary Stanton, who was his intimate friend.

I will not impose on your good nature any longer, although I could go on indefinitely, as this paper contains only a small part of the family history and anecdotes of early life in Washington related to me at odd times by my grandmother, who was so interested in everything pertaining to the history of the beautiful city whose *official* birth occurred in the same year as her own.

WASHINGTON'S HOUSES ON CAPITOL HILL.

By HENRY B. LOOKER.

(Read before the Society March 9, 1903.)

On the western side of North Capitol Street, between B and C Streets north, on original Lot 16, now Lot 39, Square 634, there stands, as you all know, a very large old building, now known as the "Kenmore House"—the name Kenmore being taken, I think, from that of the estate of Washington's mother, in Virginia. Until recently the building was known for many years as the "Hillman House." It is a prominent landmark from any point of view, and because of its great height and exact alignment with the center line of Indiana Avenue, it is especially conspicuous from that street. Because of the interest attaching to anything connected with Washington, I have thought it possibly worth our while to collate all that I had found within my reach in the way of facts and tradition about this old building which was undoubtedly originally built by Washington. For the purpose of perpetuating the appearance of the present building, when it, as well as we, shall have been displaced by something better, I have prevailed upon a kind friend to make for me a photograph of the building from a point across the street. By the kindness of our worthy old friend, Mr. James Croggon, a most keen searcher after interesting historical data, I have also secured a copy of an autograph letter of Washington, addressed to Wm. Thornton, on the subject of this same building, and thoroughly characteristic of Washington's precise and

clear style. My photographer friend made for me a copy of a lithographic fac-simile of this letter, whose authenticity is manifest from the most cursory examination of the handwriting. At the same time he made for me a copy of a photograph borrowed for me by Mr. Croggon from the family of Mr. Wm. Elliott, one of the early surveyors of the City of Washington, which shows the building in question as it appeared during the Civil War, the original picture having been made at the instance of certain officers of troops then quartered in the Capitol. This picture is of interest in that it shows the condition of the North Capitol Street of that day—a deep raw cut, unpaved and deplorable in its ghastliness—with a large number of the huge blocks of marble just brought from the quarries north of Baltimore for the construction of the Senate wing of the Capitol. All three of these copies are “respectfully submitted” for our archives. I will now read the letter to Thornton:

WILLIAM THORNTON, Esq
FEDERAL CITY.

Favored
by

Thos Law, Esq^r

MOUNT VERNON Dec^r 20th 1798.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a check on the Bank of Alexandria for five hundred dollars, to enable M^r Blagden, by your draught, to proceed in laying in materials for carrying on my buildings in the Federal City.

I saw a building in Philadelphia of about the same front and elevation, that are to be given to my two houses, which pleased me.—It consisted also of two houses united,—Doors in the centre—a pediment in the roof and dormer window on each side of it in front,—skylights in the rear.

If this is not incongruous with rules of architecture, I

should be glad to have my two houses executed in this style.
— Let me request the favor of you to learn from Mr Blagden
what the additional cost will be.

I am — Dear Sir

Your Most Obed^t H^{ble} Serv^t

G. WASHINGTON.

WILL^m THORNTON Esq^r

This letter was presented by a lady of Washington, D. C., and was written by General Washington to Dr. Wm. Thornton, one of the three Commissioners who laid out the city of Washington. The houses described in this letter are now known as the "Hillman House," situated on North Capitol Street, near B Street.

Washington's will refers to this building in the following terms:

"Lots—viz.—City of Washington } \$15000
Two near the Capitol Sqr. 634 }
Cost \$936, and with Buildings."

The changes which have been made in the shape of the roof, front doors, etc., are clearly brought out by the war-time picture and the one of to-day. Washington seems to have been responsible for the two northern houses of the block of three shown in the war-time photograph. The southern one is practically unchanged since the war. I do not know positively who built this southern house, which followed the general lines of the other two, but I believe it was for a long time the home of the Mr. Wm. Elliott above mentioned and was probably built by him. He was surveyor of the city from 1832 to 1837. By easy gradations my little story drops from the realm of fact through somewhat uncertain tradition to the following extremely hazy remarks, which I make in the hope that some one

present may supply the necessary data to fill in the breaks and make a connected story. I am indebted again to Mr. Croggon for what follows. In Vol. 2, Miscellaneous State papers, 1809-1823, now in the Library of Congress, indexed under Magruder, is found a report made to the clerk of the House of Representatives (Patrick Magruder), by two of his clerks, S. Burch and J. T. Frost, who in the absence of their chief endeavored to save the archives of the House from the threatened destruction by the British in 1814. All of the clerks were drawn upon for military duty except Frost. Burch succeeded in getting a furlough, however, and helped in the removal. This report states that after the defeat of our army at Bladensburg, certain records of the Committees on Ways and Means, Claims and Pensions, and Revolutionary Claims were taken to "the house commonly called General Washington's," which house being unexpectedly consumed by fire, these records were lost. The bulk of the archives were saved, being taken back into the country the day before the defeat. This official report seems to confirm so completely all the other information regarding Washington's relation to this particular building as to make it perfectly proper to state that the present "Kenmore" is the result of the rebuilding and combination of the two houses built by Washington. I think that Lot 16, Square 634, upon which the Kenmore stands, was bought by Washington, September 25, 1798—over a year before his death. Also Lots 6 and 7 seem to have been bought by him from Daniel Carroll of Duddington, October 3, 1798. In 1809 there appears a record of a suit to confirm a sale, brought by Thornton, Washington et al., against Bushrod Washington (Docket 1, page 802), decree in which was ratified June 16, 1817, covering this property. In

1834 Baker as trustee and R. Y. Brent transferred the property to Commodore Charles Wilkes. Other records are as follows:

In 1803 the assessment lists show Lot 16,—value \$530, improvements \$8,000—assessed against the heirs of George Washington.

In 1819 it was assessed against Wm. S. Nichols at 15 cents.

In 1824 against the same man at 7 cents a foot.

In 1834 against Commodore Wilkes.

In 1839 against Commodore Wilkes.

I thank you for your patient attention to this quite dry subject, and now conclude by remarking that I think our organization should very properly be the first to move in an effort to secure action by Congress looking to the erection of suitable bronze tablets throughout the city and district, containing in very legible form the information contained on the simple boards placed during the recent Grand Army meeting here to indicate to strangers the sites of over two hundred points of historical interest. Such things have a powerful effect upon the impressionable minds of the thousands of children who journey to this point from every quarter of the land, and the idea of nationality is fostered by such means, just as it is by the sight of the great buildings of the general government. Who can estimate the value, in this direction, of the Capitol and the Library?

HOTELS OF WASHINGTON PRIOR TO 1814.

By W. B. BRYAN.

(Read before the Society March 9, 1903.)

The value of definite knowledge as to the location of the hotels of Washington in its early years is appreciated by all who have had occasion to consult the records of that period. At that time, and in fact pretty well along towards the middle of the nineteenth century, the taverns of Washington, like those in other towns in this country, were centers of much of the social and civic life of the place. It was in some tavern that the birthnight balls in celebration of the anniversary of the birthday of General Washington were held. There, too, were the meeting places of the assemblies, as the dancing parties that met during the winter seasons, were termed. If a social semi-public attention was to be paid to a distinguished citizen, the tavern was the place selected as the scene of the festivities. Here came the travelling purveyors of amusement, whether it was the wonderful mathematical dog that was to be exhibited or a collection of the works of some distinguished artist. When the day rolled around for the holding of the town elections announcement was duly made that the polls of such a ward would be opened at a certain tavern. In the event the city fathers did not win public approval, a meeting of those who wished to protest was called to be held at some tavern. Here the nominating conventions, so to speak, were held, and the ticket for the municipal election agreed upon. It was at the tavern that groups collected to discuss political questions, and in fact

there was hardly an interest claiming the attention of any considerable number of the people that did not find its advocates assembled at a public house.

It was not thought improper for justice to be dispensed within the precincts of a public house. The Orphans Court of the District was organized in the summer of 1801 in a hotel, and while the old Circuit Court of the District held its sessions in the Capitol, still at one period rooms in hotel buildings in the vicinity were occupied. Because the taverns were so well known, they were used as landmarks, so that the location of these places furnish the key to much of the geography of the city in the days when directories were not issued and before the numbering of houses came into vogue.

The practice so common in other cities of making use of pictorial signs and fanciful names to attract attention and custom does not seem to have been adopted here to any extent. So we find the Eastern Branch, Tunncliffe's, Stelles' and Rhode's Hotels, but very seldom names like "The Bull's Head," "The Black Bear," "Dragon and Horse," and other like appellations. However the Indian King at a very early date was represented on a sign that was swung out at the northeast corner of Fifteenth and F Streets, for that became the name of the hotel located there. Some years later, and in fact until quite modern times the old hostelry on a portion of the site of the present Metropolitan Hotel was known by the name of Indian Queen.

There were evidently three classes of liquor licenses in the District after the year 1791. At that time the Maryland legislature enacted a law which gave to the commissioners of the city authority to grant licenses for the sale of spirituous liquors, but in quantities not

less than ten gallons. Such has been the change in the manner of life of the people, that to-day such a permit would be regarded as a wholesale, rather than a retail license, the latter being the term used in the law.

The two other classes of liquor licenses according to the Maryland law of 1780, were, one for the retailing of spirituous liquors in quantities under ten gallons, and not less than one pint, but not to be drunk on the premises; while the other was issued to ordinary or tavern keepers. Until the close of the period of the legislative jurisdiction of the State of Maryland in the District, which was February 27, 1801, the State of Maryland, through the judges of the county courts of Prince George and Montgomery counties, continued to license this traffic and collect the revenue into the State treasury. A slight change was made in the year 1799, when the corporation of Georgetown was given the right to collect the liquor tax, but to retain for the municipal treasury only what could be secured over and above the sum required by the State license, which latter was to be paid to the State officers by the town authorities.

A century ago in the District of Columbia the buildings occupied as hostelrys were not large. Unlike the mammoth caravansaries of to-day they were not intended to accommodate a great number of people at one time. The stables were apt to be larger than the taverns, for many of the guests came on horseback, or perhaps in their own carriages. The size of the buildings is further indicated by some of the provisions of the law governing the issuance of licenses. In the event the tavern was at the county seat, then the tavern keeper must provide in his house "six good featherbeds, with sufficient covering for the same, and stabling for ten horses." In any place except the county seat licenses could be issued to inn keepers who pro-

vided for the public use three featherbeds and stabling for six horses. The rates and prices for all liquors and other accommodations must be approved by the judge and a copy displayed in each tavern as a protection to travellers against over-charging.

The buildings were in keeping with the simple conditions of the business. Generally they were merely the ordinary dwelling house of the time, two, and sometimes, three stories in height. According to the announcement of John Wise, who kept the City Tavern at the Sign of the Bunch of Grapes, Alexandria, he had just opened on February 20, 1793, his "new and elegant three-story brick house fronting the west end of the Market House, which was built for a tavern and has twenty commodious, well-furnished rooms." In the annals of the hotels of Alexandria at this period appears the name of John Gadsby, subsequently prominent in this city in the same line of business. In 1796 an extensive structure, as it was then regarded, was built by subscription at the northeast corner of Twentyninth and Bridge or M Street, Georgetown, and was known as the Union Tavern. It was sixty feet front, three stories in height, but it contained only thirteen bed-rooms. Daniel Carroll's extensive hotel on Capitol Hill, as it was termed, which was projected in 1799, but not actually built until 1805, was described as having dimensions of fifty-four by sixty feet and was three stories in height. It was said to contain fifty rooms.

No doubt the inn keepers of the time realized as early as any of the residents in the locality selected as the seat of government, the general interest which was felt in the new city. The tide of travel set in almost as soon as active preparations for erecting the public buildings were started. In the fall of 1793 the corner-stone of the Capitol was laid, and work had already begun on

the President's house. In the same year Mr. Samuel Blodgett of eager, ardent mind, who had become much interested in the new city, laid the corner-stone of a large building which came to be known as the Great Hotel. Standing on the crest of what was spoken of in those days as the F Street ridge, its front adorned with classic pediment, it presented an imposing mass in the fields and woods which then constituted the site of the infant capital.

The view from the hotel was a commanding one, and the placing of a structure of that size in such primitive surroundings then, and for many years later, made it one of the most conspicuous objects in the new city. It was located at the northeast corner of Eighth and E Streets, had a frontage of 120 feet, and was two stories in height, with a basement and an attic story. This building was offered as the first prize in a lottery known as Federal Lottery, No. 1, but it was not finished by Mr. Blodgett, who, as the manager, devised this scheme for the improvement of the city. In fact it was never completed for hotel purposes as originally planned. Some parts were used for public meetings, and in the year 1800 the first theatrical representation in the new city was given there. Religious services were also held in the building, but there seemed to be no use for the unfinished structure, and as it fell more and more into decay, it furnished a refuge for those who were unable to find any other shelter. It stood in this condition until the year 1810, when it was purchased by the government, and after extensive improvements, it was occupied by the General Post Office, the Patent Office, and the City Post Office.

Although the corner-stone of the Great Hotel was laid in the fall of 1793, yet nearly two years later,

namely in the spring of 1795, there is a reference to it in one of the local newspapers which would indicate that only the foundations had been built. Some notion of the feeling that prevailed at that time in regard to Mr. Blodgett and his lottery enterprise, may no doubt be gathered from a communication signed "A Stage Passenger," which appeared in the *Washington Gazette* of September 28, 1796. The writer states that in his opinion the architect intended "The word hotel inscribed in red letters upon the front of a magnificent building, half finished * * * to denote the character of the founder. * * * With this view he selected the initials of the following Latin words, 'Hic omnes turpitudine excedit longe.' "

The first hotel within the limits of the City of Washington, of which there is any record, is one that was kept by John Travers on the Eastern Branch. Mr. Travers announced in the *Georgetown Weekly Ledger* of August 24, 1793, that he had opened a tavern on the Eastern Branch. There is some significance in the location of what was undoubtedly the first tavern in the new city, as it may fairly be concluded that much of the early activity centered about that section. As the population of the city four years later was estimated to be about 2,000,* it is evident at that time there were comparatively few people living in the stretch of four miles between the Eastern Branch and Georgetown.

One of the first roads opened up in the new city was one to afford communication between the Eastern Branch and the central and the eastern sections of the city. Independent of the importance of that water way as a harbor for vessels, the ferries established there at an early date supplied a direct route between

* *Washington Gazette*, September 16, 1797.

southern Maryland, Virginia and the new city. As early as the year 1791 notice was given of an intention to establish a ferry from a point half a mile north of Alexandria to the Maryland shore, while in the spring of 1795 a ferry had been started in the Eastern Branch at the foot of South Capitol Street, known as the lower ferry. By that time bridges had been built by the commissioners of the city over the Tiber and James Creeks, the former at Seventh Street and the latter at N Street. A company had also been chartered in 1795 by the Maryland legislature, but several years elapsed before a bridge was built over the Eastern Branch at the foot of Kentucky Avenue, near the present Pennsylvania Avenue bridge. Two years later the same authority gave the Anacostia Bridge Company the right to erect a bridge over the Eastern Branch and one was built at a later period where the Bennings bridge now stands. These were known respectively as the Lower and the Upper Bridges. Another method of communication was provided in the spring of 1795, as then a line of packet boats was daily plying between Georgetown and Alexandria, stopping at the wharf of Morris and Nicholson's, foot of Sixth Street, southwest,—Greenleaf Point. The public was notified that passage on these boats could be engaged at Mr. Mark Ward's tavern on Greenleaf's Point, which was no doubt in the vicinity of the wharf.

In the same year the mail coaches from the north passed through the city instead of following the old road from Bladensburg, which wound along to the north of the urban bounds. According to the topographic map of the District prepared by Andrew Ellicott, it is supposed, in the year 1793 a road designated as the road to Baldensburg is shown as entering the city via Maryland Avenue. From the

Capitol the route to Georgetown was apparently at first in a northwest direction to the F Street ridge.

With these lines of communication in and about the city established and a bridge over Rock Creek also erected by the city commissioners, the close of the year 1795 saw the new town fairly started on its career. The three principal sections of the city, namely, the vicinity of the President's House, the Capitol and the Eastern Branch seem to have had a pretty even start. As affording much information as to the progress of the growth of the city, the history of the early hotels will be found to be not without interest.

In the year 1792 James Hoban and Peirce Purcell purchased from the commissioners Lot 5, Square 224, fronting on the north side of F Street seventy-five feet east of Fifteenth Street. This was only one of a number of lots bought by Mr. Hoban, either individually or in connection with Mr. Purcell.

At that time Mr. Hoban, as the architect of the President's House, was superintending the erection of that structure. He was also selected by Mr. Blodgett to design the Great Hotel.* It may be conjectured that in order to enhance the value of his property in the vicinity of the President's Square, Mr. Hoban decided to erect a building on Lot 5 for hotel purposes. At any rate a building was put up and was in use as early as June, 1795, and was known as the Little Hotel. The first record of a tavern in the vicinity of the Capitol is not until the following year. On the 10th of September, 1796, Elizabeth Leslie announced through the columns of the *Washington Gazette* that the public can be accommodated at the Capitol Hill Tavern, but gives no information of its whereabouts. This may be the tav-

* *U. S. Gazette*, April 20, 1793.

ern referred to by Mr. Twining, an Englishman who visited the city in that year.*

Mr. Joseph Wheat is more explicit, for in the *Washington Gazette* of October 17, 1796, under the heading of "New Tavern," he invites the patronage of the public to his house just opened at the head of Mr. Barry's wharf at the Eastern Branch, the landing of the lower ferry. A few months later Mr. William Tunncliff informed the public that he had opened the Eastern Branch Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue, Square 925, fronting on that thoroughfare between Eighth and Ninth Streets, southeast. The old building still standing on that site is probably the one referred to by Mr. Tunncliff. Prior to 1800 there is, therefore, a record of five hotels in the eastern part of the city, and one in the western.

In giving the building on F Street the title of Little Hotel, the owner, Mr. Hoban, if he was the responsible author, was perhaps influenced by the popular designation of the larger structure to the east. The first reference to the Little Hotel is in June 19, 1795. On that date appears in the columns of the *Impartial Observer*, the first newspaper published in the City of Washington, a notice of a celebration by the Masons "of the festival of St. John the Baptist." "The brethren," the notice states, "will walk in procession from the lodge to the Capitol, where divine service will be performed." At the close of the service, it is stated, the brethren will return in procession to the Little Hotel "for refreshments."

This hotel is spoken of three years later as the lodge-room of Federal Lodge, No. 15, and it may have been thus used at the earlier date. It is also probable that

* Travels in America 100 years ago. By Thomas Twining. New York, 1894.

the allusions in the local newspapers, during 1796 and a portion of 1797, to Scott's Hotel and Scott's Little Hotel have reference to this building, although in the same period mention is also made of a hotel designated merely as the Little Hotel. While it cannot be positively asserted that all such references apply to one place, yet the probabilities lead one strongly in that direction.

In the fall of 1797 the Little Hotel was without a tenant, and Messrs. Hoban and Purcell offered it for rent. Prior to that, in August, 1797, Bennet Fenwick purchased from David Burns Lot No. 6 at the northeast corner of Fifteenth and F Streets, adjoining on the west Lot 5, where the Little Hotel stood. Fenwick erected a building on his newly acquired property, but there is no evidence that he used it at that time for hotel purposes.

The history of the Little Hotel is very meager. The first entry that occurs, after a lapse of more than a year, is on January 4, 1799, when William Rhodes announced through the columns of the *Centinel of Liberty* and *Georgetown Advertiser*, that he had taken the Little Hotel in the City of Washington. This is the first mention of a man who was, for a number of years, one of the best known Bonifaces of the city.

As nearly as can now be ascertained, Mr. Rhodes continued to be the proprietor of the Little Hotel until some time in the year 1801, when he took possession of the property at the northeast corner of Fifteenth and F Streets, which became known as Rhodes' Hotel. In a deed dated September 10, 1801, the corner property is referred to as "the house built by the aforesaid Bennet Fenwick and now in the occupancy of William Rhodes." There is reason to believe that the change was made by Mr. Rhodes in the spring of 1801, and if

that is correct, then it was in the building on the corner where was held the first session of the newly created Orphans' Court of the District.*

There also was located in the following year the polls for the second ward in the first election of the new corporation of Washington. In many other ways Rhodes' Hotel was identified with the civic life of the place.

Mr. Rhodes left the building in the summer of 1804, and in the fall of the following year it was leased by Joseph M. Semmes, who called it the Indian King Tavern. Mr. Semmes' tenancy lasted two years, and in the fall of 1807 his furniture was offered for sale, which experience closed the career of a good many of the inn keepers of that day.

It then became a boarding house run by Mrs. Barbara Suter of Georgetown, but a portion of the structure fronting on F Street was used by Mr. Edgar Patterson as a store. The boarding house seemed to have been a success, for it continued under Mrs. Suter's management for seven years, and then in the year 1814 the property was purchased by the Bank of the Metropolis, an institution still in existence under the name of the National Metropolitan Bank. It is highly probable that the old structure still standing on that corner is the one that was erected by Bennet Fenwick some time after the year 1797.

An idea of the building as it then appeared may be obtained from the description given by Mary Ann Fenwick, the widow of Bennet Fenwick. In the summer of 1804 as Mr. Rhodes had left her property and taken the Lovell Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue, she naturally wanted to find another tenant. In offering the house she spoke of it as "that large and convenient three-story brick house near the Treasury, and for-

* *National Intelligencer*, March 2 and April 8, 1801.

merly occupied by Mr. William Rhodes as a tavern.”* A sale advertisement in 1813 gave the dimensions of the building as 76 x 40 feet.

The glory of Rhodes' Tavern, or City Tavern as it was called, seems to have departed with Mr. Rhodes and its prominence as a hostelry ceased. The polling places for municipal elections in that ward were held thereafter at Rhodes' Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue, and so were the dancing assemblies and other events of the day. No trace has been left of the building, which is identified with the earliest records of the city as the Little Hotel. There is no evidence that it was used as a hotel after the spring of 1801, when a reference is made to it as “the house lately occupied as the Little Hotel,” although a few days later, namely April 3, 1801, a notice appears of a meeting of the carpenters of the city to be held at the Little Hotel. May 11, 1801, an advertisement appeared in the *Georgetown Centinel*, offering for sale Lot 5, Square 224, “where the Little Hotel stands,” which is described as a two-story brick building. It was not sold until 1804, when it was purchased by Francis Clarke, a merchant who made his home there.†

Soon after the removal of the government to the new city, additional accommodations for the public in the section near the Treasury was apparently in demand. To meet this William Lovell built a tavern. On the 21st of May, 1801, Mr. Lovell bought from James Hoban a lot on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue between Fourteenth and Fifteenth Streets. The exact site is now occupied by the buildings, Nos. 1417 to 1421, which were erected in the spring of 1902 on the ground from which a portion of the old tavern build-

* *National Intelligencer*, May 28, 1802.

† *National Intelligencer*, April 18, 1810.

ing had just been removed, after standing for about one hundred years. The following year this hostelry is spoken of as the Union Tavern and Washington Hotel, and it is described as located "on Pennsylvania Avenue, just east of the President's and one mile from the Capitol." It was known popularly as Lovell's Hotel up to 1804, but in that year the place passed into the hands of William Rhodes, who continued there for eight years. It was known as Rhodes' Hotel. Then in May, 1812, came what seems to have been inevitable, at least in the experience of Washington hotel men of that period, namely the advertisement of the furniture for sale. In the following summer James McLeod became the proprietor and gave it the name of the Washington Hotel.

The locality of the President's Square seemed to have attractions for hotel men, for in addition to Rhodes' Hotel, and that of Mr. Lovell's, to say nothing of the Little Hotel, which, however, was probably a deserted building after the close of the year 1801, thus keeping the more pretentious Great Hotel in countenance, there is a record that in December, 1801,* Charles Rogers came over from Georgetown and opened the Fountain Tavern on Pennsylvania Avenue, near the President's Square, probably just west of Seventeenth Street.

The following year, however, Mr. Rogers retired from the management of the Fountain Tavern and George Pitt announced that he had taken the place and called it Anchor Tavern and Oyster House. It is evident that it became more of an eating house than a hotel. The name Fountain Inn was revived many years later and was an early designation of the Kirkwood House, now the Raleigh, northeast corner of

* *Centinel of Liberty*, December 11, 1801.

Pennsylvania Avenue and Twelfth Street. George Pitt did not come to this hotel unknown to the Washington public, for in January 21, 1800, he assumed charge of the upper ferry on the Eastern Branch near the present site of the Penna. Ave. Bridge, and also of the hotel which was apparently in that locality.

Another hostelry that played no small part in the lives of the citizens at this early period was what was known as Morin's Tavern. This place was established by Mr. Lewis Morin, of Baltimore, who, in May, 1800, bought from the city commissioners Lot 1, Square 292, at the southwest corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Twelfth Street, paying for this deep triangular piece of ground the sum of \$549.77. Here he erected a two-story frame dwelling-house, fronting 30 feet on Pennsylvania Avenue and extended back to D Street, "and used by him as a tavern," as the deed of that date, November 16, 1801, recites. This inn was selected as the polling place for the ward in which it was located in the first city election and for a number of years subsequently. By the year 1811 Mr. Morin opened a grocery store in the same locality. There is but little further mention of the hotel. Mr. Morin died in the fall of 1811. As late as the year 1813, a Mr. Espey is spoken of as his successor.

To return again to the vicinity of the Capitol, where in the interim William Tunnicliff had made a change of evident importance in his establishment. For May 21, 1799, he informed the public that his large and commodious new house known as the Washington City Hotel, near the Capitol, was ready for the reception of guests. This building was located on A Street, just east of the southeast corner of First and A Streets, northeast, the corner being noted in after years as a part of the site of the old Capitol Prison. It is easy

to understand why Mr. William Tunnicliff left his Eastern Branch Hotel for the new location, or at least to conjecture the probable reasons. For in the first place Congress was coming the following year to hold its sessions in the stone building across the stretch of commons, which was called the Capitol Square. Then, again, the immediate vicinity was the scene of perhaps larger expenditure of money in buildings than any other in the city. The new post road through the city was via Maryland Avenue past the Capitol and thence by the F Street ridge west towards Georgetown. It was probably these conditions that led Mr. Tunnicliff, in connection with Mr. George Walker, to go into the new hotel enterprise.

Daniel Carroll, of Duddington, was spending a good deal of money in erecting substantial residences on the squares immediately to the west. Thomas Law was also investing some of the rupees gathered in India in improvements on the east side of Delaware Avenue between B and C Streets, northeast, while farther to the west, facing North Capitol Street, Gen. Washington had built two houses. Four large houses had been built by Mr. Law on New Jersey Avenue, which are still standing, three at the northwest corner of New Jersey Avenue and C Street, southeast, and one on the opposite side. By the fall of 1801 a range of buildings extended on the east side of New Jersey Avenue, north to B Street, and also along the latter street.*

There seemed to have been no buildings on the west side of New Jersey Avenue near B Street, and one explanation might be found in the fact that a large frame structure for the use of the workmen on the Capitol

* An enumeration of the houses in each square of the city of Washington made November, 1801. *American State Papers Miscellaneous*, Vol. 1, pp. 256-257.

had been built along B Street, covering the street and extending over New Jersey Avenue. This may have had the effect of checking improvements on the west side of the block. It is probable that the *Intelligencer*, for the first year in this city, was published in a building on the east side of that thoroughfare. The editor announced rather vaguely that it was printed on New Jersey Avenue.

If the statement of Mathew Brown is correct in an advertisement which appeared in the *Intelligencer*, April 6, 1801, describing a house he had for sale or lease on the west side of New Jersey Avenue, just north of C Street, "as the nearest dwelling on the south of it (the Capitol) on Capitol Hill," it is evident that the buildings on the east side of the street must have been used for other purposes than for dwellings.

In the vicinity of the Capitol, in addition to Tunnicliff's Hotel, was the hostelry of Pontius D. Stelle. The latter name is, perhaps, more prominently identified with the early hotels of the city than that of any other man. His place is mentioned by many visitors, and much of the life of the infant city centered there. He evidently believed in printers' ink, and at one time kept an advertisement running in the columns of the *Intelligencer* continuously for over a year. Some of the descendants of Mr. Stelle still live in this city, and as stated by his great-granddaughter in a paper read before the society in February last, Mr. Stelle came here from Trenton, N. J., in the year 1799. He must have begun the hotel business soon after, for there is a record of a bill, presumably for lodging, paid by the Government to Mr. Stelle as part of the expenses of the removal of one of the clerks to this city from Philadelphia. So that it is evident Mr. Stelle was in business as early as June, 1800.


There is no definite information available by which the location of his hotel at that time can be determined with any precision. The first statement, and that is rather vague, is found in a notice of January 8, 1802, in the *Intelligencer*, for a meeting of citizens to be held at Mr. Stelle's tavern, which is described as being on New Jersey Avenue. Some eight years later, when his career as a hotel man was drawing to a close, he states that he had removed to the house formerly occupied by himself, fronting the south wing of the Capitol. It is a reasonable conjecture that he may have begun business in the year 1800, in a house on the south side of Capitol Square, presumably on New Jersey Avenue, but it is also quite certain that for some time prior to 1802 he occupied one of the buildings erected by Daniel Carroll on Square 687, now a part of the Capitol grounds, but then bounded by A, B, First Streets and Delaware Avenue, northeast.

It was at Stelle's Hotel on New Jersey Avenue that the polling place for the third ward in the first city election in June, 1802, was held. There is reason to believe that some time between this date and December 3, 1804, Stelle shifted his abode across Capitol Square and was again in Square 687. For on March 22, 1805, Daniel Carroll, of Duddington, offers for sale "the tavern on Capitol Hill occupied for some years previous by Pontius D. Stelle," and that gentleman on March 25, 1805, in announcing to the public that he had bought Tunnicliff's Hotel, First and A Streets, northeast, expresses his thanks "for their favors whilst on the Capitol Square." The latter term as thus used is probably technical, not general, for in the latter sense his recently acquired place could be described as on or overlooking Capitol Square.

The true meaning of Capitol Square in those days is

perhaps indicated by the plats of original surveys of the city squares. In this particular instance the continuation of A Street, on the south side of Square 687, is termed Capitol Square, as is also the case with the continuation of Delaware Avenue on the west side. A similar designation of the spaces on the north and west sides of Square 688, occupying the corresponding position on the south side of the Capitol grounds, and also now included within these grounds, points undoubtedly to the real meaning of the designation as employed by Mr. Stelle. Mr. Carroll was the owner of Square 687, but owned no part of Square 688.

While to the modern mind this shifting about on the part of a hotel keeper, from one building to another, in the same locality may appear to be a curious procedure, still it was then by no means uncommon. The case of the Suters, hotel tavern keepers of Georgetown, is one in point. As early as November 25, 1789, the name of John Suter appears as a tavern keeper in Georgetown. It was probably his widow who is spoken of as keeping a tavern on the east side of High, then Water Street, now Thirty-second Street, just south of Bridge or M Street. In the spring of 1795 this place was known as Mrs. Suter's Fountain Inn. On the opposite side of the street, and occupying the site of the present fire engine house, was located in the year 1797 a Fountain Inn, then under the management of Clement Sewall, the latter subsequently going to the City Tavern adjoining the Bank of Columbia on Bridge Street. The name of Mrs. Suter is also connected with a tavern on Bridge Street, and subsequently with the Union Tavern, and during her management of the latter place the large room in the hotel, known as the assembly room, was opened as The Theatre.



Unless Mrs. Elizabeth Leslie was still running the Capitol Hill Tavern, and there is no mention of it in the *Intelligencer* and on this ground it is highly probable that she had gone out of business, there is no record of other houses of public entertainment in the vicinity of the Capitol during the first five years after the removal of the government, than Tunnicliff's and Stelle's. There was, however, the boarding house of Conrad and McMunn, who had leased from Thomas Law the large buildings erected by him at the north-west corner of New Jersey Avenue and C Street, northeast. Across the street, in a house, also the property of Thomas Law, Robert W. Peacock kept a boarding house. In both instances the enterprises were not successful, in spite of the fact that Conrad and McMunn gave shelter to Mr. Jefferson at the time he was inaugurated President and for some weeks after and until the President's House could be prepared for his reception. The marshal of the District, however, seized their furniture and offered it for public sale early in the fall of 1801. At a still earlier date, namely, March 4, 1801, Mr. Peacock apparently gave up the boarding house business or supplemented it, for he notified the public that he had begun the practice of law and had opened an office on New Jersey Avenue.

It is not clearly known what use was made of the Eastern Branch Hotel building after Mr. Tunnicliff deserted it for a nearer location to the Capitol building. It is probable he was succeeded by William R. King, whose place is spoken of as King's Tavern, near the Navy Yard, although there were other taverns mentioned during this period, and vaguely described as near the Navy Yard. One was Dobbins' Tavern* and the other Gattton's.† The former cannot be identified

* *National Intelligencer*, May 3, 1805.

† *National Intelligencer*, September 3, 1805.

with the Eastern Branch Tavern, for a little later Hugh Drummond became the proprietor and it is described as being on Seventh Street, in Square 881.* David Dobbin was in business as late as the year 1815, when he had a tavern at Twelfth and F Streets, northwest.

Mr. William Tunnicliff was in the management of his hotel at First and A Streets, northeast, in August, 1804, when he lost his wife. A notice of her death appeared in the *Intelligencer*, with the following quaint couplet attached.

"An ancient poet hath said Death takes the good—too good on
earth to stay
And leaves the bad—too bad to take away."

A few days later a deed was placed on record by which George Walker and Wm. Tunnicliff transferred Lots 16 and 17, Square 728, to Pontius D. Stelle. It is stated that Mr. Walker had mortgaged Lot 17 to George Washington and Thomas Law, but that the debt had been paid. In this way the name of Washington is connected with a piece of property that is noted in the history of the city.

With the giving up of this property Mr. Tunnicliff drops out of the hotel history of the city, having been identified with it since December 14, 1796, when he announced the opening of the Eastern Branch Hotel, a period of nearly eight years, a long time for one man to survive the vicissitudes of hotel keeping in the nation's capital during the early years of the nineteenth century. In his house near the Capitol, President Adams stayed while on a brief visit to this city in June, 1800.

Mr. Stelle was no sooner settled in the hotel, which he had purchased but only paid for in part, when his

* *National Intelligencer*, May 30, 1806, and May 8, 1809.

ambition was probably aroused by the spectacle of the splendid hotel building which Mr. Daniel Carroll was erecting on the adjoining square to the south. This structure was the largest building of the kind in the city, as well as the most extensive reared by private enterprise. It was part of the scheme of improvements which had been begun by Mr. Carroll about the year 1800 with the view, no doubt, of enhancing the value of his realty holdings, which were extensive in that section.

He had announced his purpose in the spring of 1799 to erect a large hotel building, but did not carry it out at that time. Then in the spring of 1804, in connection with Thomas Law, he offered to present a corner lot in Square 687 as the site of a hotel building, and invited subscriptions from the public towards the erection of the structure. Nothing came from this attempt to interest the public. In the following year he erected the large hotel on First Street, between East Capitol and A Streets, southeast, just referred to.

As a part of Carroll Row, this building is within the recollection of the present generation, as it was only removed to make room for the erection of the building for the Library of Congress. This was the place which Mr. Stelle leased in the latter part of 1805. He advertised persistently for over a year for a tenant for his former place in the square to the north, but without result.

As described by Mr. Stelle in an advertisement in April, 1810, offering for sale the Tunnicliff Hotel, "the house is of brick, three stories high, well built, with a large brick stable, a house for the family and other out-houses. The house fronts on A Street and Maryland Avenue, being the avenue which leads from the Baltimore road and by the Capitol to the Washington

Bridge. It has long been occupied as a tavern. The lots are 16, 17, and 18 in Square 728, with the presumptive right to Lot 19."

The lot on the corner of First and A Streets was number 16, and as stated by Mr. Stelle, the hotel building was erected on the adjoining lot or lots to the east, so that the corner lot was left vacant, which enabled the *Intelligencer* on the 12th of December, 1815, proudly to record the fact as indicative of public enterprise that the building erected by the citizens during the past summer for the accommodation of Congress—referring of course to the structure on the First Street front of the square which is still standing—occupied ground where five months before a flower garden bloomed.*

In addition to the misfortune of not finding a tenant, Mr. Stelle experienced complications over the balance of the purchase money secured by deed of trust, which finally resulted in a law suit. It was not until the fall of 1810 that a tenant was secured in the person of Samuel J. Coolidge, who continued there until the spring of 1812. Then there ensued another long tenantless period. When in August, 1814, the British invaded the city, the old Tunnicliff Hotel was occupied by Robert Long. He soon gave it up and John McLeod succeeded to the business, coming there from the Washington Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue, of which he had been proprietor for several years. Mr. McLeod remained there but a short time and his occupancy seems to have ended the history of this building as a hotel. In December, 1815, or soon after the completion of the new meeting place for Congress to the west of his hotel and on the same square, he announced that he had opened a house near the ruins of Tomlinson's Hotel.

* *National Intelligencer*, December 12, 1815.

Daniel Carroll was more fortunate than Mr. Stelle, for he at once leased to Wm. R. King the house northeast of the Capitol formerly occupied by Mr. Stelle. He had just completed the building on First Street when Mr. Stelle took possession of it. It had made a narrow escape from destruction by fire a few weeks before. The *Intelligencer* of September 6, 1805, records that "fire broke out in the spacious hotel building owned by Mr. Carroll, but was extinguished without material damage." On the 13th of November, 1805, came the announcement from Mr. Stelle under the heading "Stelle's Hotel and City Tavern," that he "has taken the spacious hotel lately erected by Mr. Carroll near the Capitol." He adds that the building "is about 100 feet front and contains fifty rooms."

If Mr. Stelle added a few feet to the frontage of the building it could be attributed to the enthusiasm which a structure of such proportions would naturally arouse in a less interested mind. There is no doubt that it was a large building for those days. Its size as contemplated by Mr. Carroll in his advertisement for estimates for the work, was 54 feet front by 40 deep, and three stories in height. In a deed of transfer of the property, made in the year 1842, the hotel building, as it then existed, is described as being 64 feet front, with a house adjoining on the south of 25 feet front, making a total of 84 feet, which comes within reasonable distance of bearing out Mr. Stelle's assertion of a frontage of "about 100 feet." Furthermore, the *Intelligencer* of December 2, 1805, in an article giving an account of a public dinner in honor of Gen. Wm. Eaton at Stelle's soon after it was opened, says, "the room is very spacious and much superior to any one heretofore used on public occasions."

Before tracing further the development of the hotel

business in the infant city, illustrating as it does, in part, a shifting of the centers of importance, it might be well to cite other circumstances which indicate that the hotel men were only going with the stream. Perhaps as good an illustration as any of the growing consequence of the section of the city, which may be described in general as north of Pennsylvania Avenue between the Capitol and the President's Square, may be found in an advertisement in the year 1801 of Thos. Herty, a conveyancer. He informed the public that he has an office on New Jersey Avenue, where he spends the mornings of each day during the sessions of Congress, and the balance of the day at his office, fronting the President's Square.

Further light in the same direction is supplied by an examination of the few pages constituting the Congressional Directory of 1809, the first list printed of members of Congress giving their places of abode in the nation's capital. Twenty-seven places are mentioned, and it is a curious fact as showing the preference of the national legislators of that day to boarding houses rather than hotels, only two out of the entire list are hotels, one is Mr. Stelle's, and the other Mr. Long's. But the important contribution made by this list in the present connection is that more than half of the lodging places mentioned are located on Capitol Hill. The exact number is fourteen of the total of twenty-seven.

The inference is that the permanent interests of the city were beginning, even at that early day, to group themselves away from the locality of the Capitol. The rise of what is undoubtedly to-day the principal section of the city had evidently begun as early as the fall of 1801. At that time, after a year on New Jersey Avenue, Samuel Harrison Smith, the editor of the *Intelli-*

gencer, concluded to remove his printing establishment to what he termed in the announcement to his readers, "a more central location." This was on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue, about midway between Sixth and Seventh Streets, northwest.

A row of three houses had recently been put up there, and one of them was leased by Mr. Smith. There he had his printing office and presumably his residence. The first market house in the city was opened in December, 1801, in a building erected by public subscription and located on a portion of the site of the present Center Market, at Pennsylvania Avenue and Seventh Street.

Rapine, Conrad & Co., printers and booksellers, came over from Philadelphia, as Mr. Smith had done, in November, 1800. They opened the Washington Book Store at the corner of South B Street and New Jersey Avenue. William Duane, however, the editor of the *Aurora*, a Jeffersonian newspaper published in Philadelphia, came to the new city a year later, and immediately purchased the property at the northwest corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Sixth Street, northwest, and, erecting a two-story frame building there, opened the Aurora Book Store. After carrying on the business for six years, Mr. Duane sold out to R. C. Weightman and returned to his newspaper and book store in Philadelphia. With the exception of some two years, when Lund Washington was city postmaster, and the office was kept in his house on Capitol Hill, its location was in the central portion of the city.

To the west of Mr. Duane, William Woodward, who is described as a builder,* bought a site on the 28th of April, 1802, from Wm. H. Dorsey on a perpetual ground rent. This site is now covered by the eastern

* Deed of William Woodward to William Duane, April 13, 1804.

end of the Metropolitan Hotel. It is apparent that Mr. Woodward put up a building on this property, which he opened as a hotel, for on December 28, 1804, appears the first record of a building used for such a purpose in that locality, when in the columns of the *Intelligencer* is a notice of a meeting of residents and proprietors to form a citizens' association, which, by the way, is the first announcement of the sort there is any knowledge of, and that an adjournment had been decided upon to the hotel of Wm. Woodward. Later this house is spoken of as Woodward's Centre Tavern. In order to secure a supply of water for his tavern Mr. Woodward, on September 14, 1803, bought from Thos. Tingey a lot on the north side of C Street, just west of Four-and-a-half Street, where there was a fine spring. The water was conveyed by pipes to the hotel, and when Mr. Woodward parted with the property in January, 1806, to Robert Underwood, the right to the use of the water for the hotel was reserved.

This is the first hotel in that section of the city there is any record of, with the exception of a notice in the *Intelligencer* of January 14, 1801, that board and lodging for six or eight gentlemen can be had at the White House, between the city post office and Pennsylvania Avenue. As the former was located in a house owned by Dr. John Crocker, at the northwest corner of Ninth and E Streets, northwest, the general location of the place is determined.

In point of time the establishment of Mr. Woodward's place follows, and the next house of public entertainment, is the Centre House Inn, which Mr. Solomon Meyers announced, October 24, 1804, he had opened on Ninth Street, "about 30 yards north of Pennsylvania Avenue and opposite Messrs. Her-

ford's distillery," the latter being at the southwest corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Ninth Street. The exact location was the southwest corner of Ninth and D Streets. Unlike the great majority of men engaged in the hotel business at that time in this city, Mr. Meyers purchased this property, but, then, a few months later he made an arrangement with Mr. Woodward, by which he leased not only the building used as a tavern by Mr. Woodward, but the adjoining house, also erected and owned by Mr. Woodward. He made formal announcement of the change in the *Intelligencer*, July 29, 1805, wherein he christens his new place the Pennsylvania House and Meyers City Tavern. The tavern, which was a two-story brick structure, adjoined on the west Duane's book store at the corner, and then, on the other side, was the house "lately occupied by Mrs. Wilson as a boarding house." His lease from Mr. Woodward was for three years at \$250 per year.

It is evident that the Centre House of Mr. Meyers ceased to be used for hotel purposes and in 1806 it was occupied by the Messrs. Way, with their printing office. Their imprint is found on a large number of the documents issued by the Government in early years. It is an interesting fact that this corner is still occupied by a building which is used in part as a printing office. Here also was located for many years the well-known printing establishment of the Gideons, famous printers in their day.

There were others beside Mr. Woodward and Mr. Meyers, who thought the locality was a good business place, for, on the 25th of November, 1805, John Doyne states in the *Intelligencer* that he has fitted up two houses opposite Mr. Duane's store, containing thirteen rooms, which he describes as a genteel private

boarding house. Then in the fall of 1806 Miss Finagin gives public notice that she will take boarders in the house next door to Mr. Samuel Harrison Smith's printing office, and three years later the same authority indicates that Miss Finagin has survived the uncertainties of the business and is still at the old stand. However when the lease of Mr. Meyers expired on the 20th of June, 1808, the property was offered for rent by Mr. Robert Underwood, who had purchased it from Mr. Woodward, and at the same time Mr. Meyers advertised his furniture for sale. As far as the records show, Mr. Meyers no longer figured in the early history of Washington hotels. About a year and a half later, namely on February 10, 1810, he announced his purpose of beginning the publication in the following March of a political magazine, but there is no evidence that this project was carried out.

At this house soon after he became the proprietor, the stage coaches plying between Washington and Baltimore stopped regularly, showing that as early as 1806 at any rate the post road through the city via Pennsylvania Avenue was in use. A similar notice appears in regard to Stelle's Hotel, and also Rhode's.

When Meyers gave up the Pennsylvania House, as he named it, his successor was Geo. W. Lindsay.* The first record of this inn keeper is his own announcement made in the *Intelligencer* of October 19, 1807, that he had taken "the house on Capitol Hill lately occupied by Mr. Frost, and formerly by Mr. Stelle." He called it the Lindsay House. It is unfortunate that the location of this place cannot be more definitely fixed, but, as stated, it is believed to have been the property owned by Mr. Carroll, and occupied

* *National Intelligencer*, May 19, 1809.

for several years by Mr. Stelle, on Square 687, north side of the Capitol grounds.

The history of the house after Mr. Stelle left it to occupy the hotel building on the square to the east, which he had bought from Mr. Tunnicliff, is, in brief, as follows: Stelle gave up the house in the spring of 1805 and during that summer Mr. William R. King, a Navy Yard hotel keeper, leased the building. Mr. King retired after an experience of about a year, and on the 14th of November, 1806, Frost and Quinn informed the public that they have opened the place under the name of the American House. In less than seven months failure was their fate, and they offered their furniture for sale, and on the 19th of October, 1807, Geo. W. Lindsay notified the public that Lindsay's Hotel is ready for business. In less than two years, however, he sought the field made available by the retirement of Mr. Meyers from the hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue. During Mr. Lindsay's stay on Capitol Hill the Circuit Court of the District held its regular sessions in his hotel, having occupied a room in the Capitol from the organization of the court in the spring of 1801 down to 1808. Then the sittings were held in Lindsay's Hotel and in the following year, the meeting place of the chief judicial authority of the District was fixed at the hotel of Mr. Long, who in the fall of 1809 followed Stelle in the occupancy of the large hotel built by Daniel Carroll on First Street between East Capitol and A Streets. However in the winter of 1809 the court was back again in the Capitol, the change having been made because of the repairs in progress in the Capitol building.

In the spring of 1810 Mr. Lindsay's furniture was advertised for sale and a few months later appeared an advertisement of a dry goods store conducted by

Mr. Lindsay on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue, about opposite his old hotel. The latter came under the management of Mr. John Davis, who evidently took charge in the summer of 1810 and enlarged the assembly room and made other improvements. He gave the place the name of the Indian Queen Hotel and under his management it soon became the leading hostelry of the city. Later it was known as McEwen's Hotel.

A pathetic interest attaches to the close of the career of Mr. Lindsay, who was at one time the proprietor of the principal hotel in the city. For it was in all probability Geo. W. Lindsay, the hotel man, concerning whom the following obituary notice appeared in the *Intelligencer*, April 18, 1814.

"DIED.

"On Friday evening last in this city, Mr. Geo. W. Lindsay, a clerk in the office of the House of Representatives. He was a worthy, free hearted man and has left behind him a helpless family which was entirely dependent on him for support."

Hardly a year had elapsed after Robert Long, who had, in the fall of 1809, taken Stelle's place as proprietor of Carroll's big hotel, when the owner offered the place for sale, adding that possession could be given by the first of October, 1810. In the meantime Stelle informed the public under date of August 10, 1810, that "he has removed to the house formerly occupied by himself, but last by Miss Wilson, fronting the south wing of the Capitol."

Within a year, however, the usual notice appeared of the public sale of the furniture belonging to Mr. Stelle. In the fall of 1811 he announced that he had opened a boarding place on Pennsylvania Avenue, opposite to Mr. Weightman's book store, only to encoun-

ter in the following summer the fate of seeing his household furniture sold at public sale. It is probable that about this period Mr. Stelle concluded to try another line of business. At any rate he subsequently entered the government service and was employed in one of the departments at the time of his death, which occurred in the year 1826. He was secretary of the Common Council from 1812 to 1817.

There is no evidence that the large building erected by Daniel Carroll on First between East Capitol and A Streets, southeast, was soon again occupied as a hotel after Mr. Long left it, which was probably some time in the year 1810. For after this date there are a number of allusions to Carroll Row which evidently refer to this property and the adjoining houses. An advertisement of Dr. James Ewell informs the public on May 16, 1811, that he has opened an apothecary shop "in the corner of Mr. Carroll's row, opposite the Capitol." The Bank of Washington, then newly organized, began business in one of the buildings in this row and remained there until the structure built by the bank on the east side of New Jersey Avenue, a short distance south of B Street, was ready for its use. Some years later N. L. Queen opened a hotel in this row which was long known as Queen's Hotel.

When Mr. Long left Mr. Carroll's big hotel he evidently leased the smaller house in Square 687, northeast of the Capitol. He remained there only about a year, when his place was taken by B. H. Tomlinson, who called it the City Hotel. Mr. Long still continued in business on Capitol Hill, occupying the old Tunnicliff Hotel.

Tomlinson's Hotel has the historic distinction of being one of the few pieces of private property in the city burnt by the British on the occasion of the inva-

sion of the city. It was the only hotel in the city that was burnt and there is nothing to explain why this particular hostelry was singled out for such a purpose, as it is doubtful whether it was even occupied at that time.

It is not claimed that all the hostelries that were in existence in the period covered by this paper, from the origin of the District down to the year 1814 have been mentioned. For example, Wm. Caton announced on November 28, 1809, that he would open a hotel "in the house lately occupied by the Hon. R. Smith, Capitol Hill," and subsequently a notice appeared of a meeting to be held at Wm. Caton's Hotel to make arrangements for the Washington Dancing Assembly. Three years later Mr. Caton disposed of his furniture and gave up the hotel. In the vicinity of the Navy Yard there were several taverns, which changed proprietors and sometimes locations with the facility that was characteristic of the business in other sections of the city. Mr. Hugh Drummond became quite a veteran in this calling, for he apparently entered upon his career in the year 1806 and was actively engaged at the close of the year 1813. He seems to have removed his place from Seventh Street, in the vicinity of the Eastern Market, and located on Eighth Street, opposite the Marine Barracks. Mr. Shumway also had a tavern on Eighth Street, but nearer the Navy Yard gate than Mr. Drummond's house. The first reference to the latter place is on December 13, 1810, and in May of the following year the polls of the fourth ward in the city election were located at his house. There is also a reference on May 14, 1811, to a tavern in this locality kept by Mr. Shraubs.

The first announcement of a hotel on F Street, east of Fourteenth Street, appears in the *Intelligencer* of September 28, 1804, when Thomas Thorpe states that

he has opened a house opposite the bank. This reference is, of course, to the branch bank of the United States, or as it was termed, the office of discount and deposit. In the fall of 1801 this great financial institution, which had branches in seven of the principal cities of the country, located one in this city, and by December of that year a building was in progress of erection on the lot which had been bought at the northeast corner of Thirteenth and F Streets. The hotel business proved to be so profitable, or perhaps he had begun in a very small structure, at any rate by June 20, 1806, Mr. Thorpe was able to make the gratifying announcement that he had considerably enlarged his tavern, which was at the southwest corner of Thirteenth and F Streets. Two years later is found a notice of the Spring Garden Hotel, and it states that Honore Julien "has taken the house adjoining the spring on F Street, near the Chapel." *

The spring spoken of was located in the square bounded by E and F, Ninth and Tenth Streets, while the chapel is undoubtedly St. Patrick's Church, which was located on the north side of F, between Ninth and Tenth Streets. It is also evident from the advertisements that in 1808 there was a house called Speeden's Tavern, in Square 290, on the north side of C Street, between Four-and-a-half and Sixth Streets, and near the spring which supplied Lindsay's Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Then the next year, August 2, 1809, is found an allusion to Charles Jones' tavern on Pennsylvania Avenue, near the Center Market. Two years later his death is announced, but no allusion is made to the tavern. Another tavern in this locality, evidently used by the market people, is described as located on the

* *National Intelligencer*, May 6, 1808.

corner of C Street, facing the Center Market. The property was owned by Samuel Stetinius, who was a merchant with a store on Pennsylvania Avenue, between Sixth and Seventh Streets, and who advertised in October, 1811, for a young man capable of taking charge of the tavern.

Opposite the west market, which was located then on Pennsylvania Avenue, between Twentieth and Twenty-first Streets, in the year 1806, was the tavern of Owen Bradley. With the exception of the announcement in that year that the polls of the first ward in the annual city election would be held there, nothing is known of this place.

A history of the early hotels of Washington would not be complete without some reference to William O'Neal, who in later years was the proprietor of the Franklin House, and was the father of the beautiful Peggy O'Neal. As early as June 29, 1796, Mr. O'Neal was occupying a portion of the site where his hotel subsequently stood, fronting on the north side of I Street, between Twentieth and Twenty-first, on the square just east of the one where the six buildings were located. At that time he had not attained the chrysalis stage of many hotel keepers, and was not even keeping a boarding house. He had a three-story brick house on Lot 2, Square 78, and evidently engaged in the making of barrel staves and hoops. It was not until December 2, 1805, that a record is found of the beginnings of a career, which has connected his name inseparably with the hotel business of the city. Then he announced that he could board twenty gentlemen, but evidently not wishing to confine himself to that industry, he added a clause in the same advertisement to the effect that he had coal and wood for sale.

His house must have been of good size, for he states

he can furnish separate rooms for twenty gentlemen. However, the following year he is more modest, as he announces that he has accommodations for six or seven gentlemen. He also adds that he furnishes coaches to and from the Capitol for members.

The coal yard of Mr. O'Neal was in Square 78, but that branch of his business was, no doubt, abandoned when the Franklin House was enlarged and became one of the leading hotels of the city. The building is still standing, but changed into a row of residences. The title Franklin House is first found in connection with this place in the fall of 1813. At that time Mr. O'Neal announced that he had built an additional house, fifty feet front and containing twenty rooms, completely furnished. It was there Mr. Clinton, Vice-President of the United States, died in April, 1812.

Mention should be made of the first road house of which any record has been found. This was known as Sebastian Spring and was under lease to A. Lindo, who, in November 28, 1808, announced that he had opened the place which he describes as located on the turnpike road, between Washington and Alexandria and about half a mile from the Washington Bridge, as the Long Bridge, opened for travel the following spring, was then known. Mr. Lindo was evidently a man of expedients for attracting trade, but in spite of the new bridge and his own efforts, in about a year he offered to sell his unexpired lease for three years. One of his ambitious projects was providing a dinner for 500 persons on the 4th of July, 1809, in the grove adjoining the spring. That form of celebrating the national birthday was general in this locality at that period, and in the same year the Democratic citizens of Washington sat down to a dinner at the Center Market House, prepared by Geo. W. Lindsay, while citi-

zens without regard to political distinctions dined and listened to patriotic toasts at the tavern of Mr. Long.

In the year 1814 the principal hotels in the city were: Drummond's and Thumway's, near the Navy Yard; Tomlinson's, on Capitol Square to the north-east of the Capitol; Carroll's big hotel and Coolidge's, standing vacant; Davis', on Pennsylvania Avenue, between Sixth and Seventh Streets; McLeod's, on Pennsylvania Avenue, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth Streets, and O'Neal's, at Twentieth and I Streets.

WHY THE CITY WENT WESTWARD.

(A DISCUSSION BEFORE THE SOCIETY APRIL 13, 1903.)

At the meeting of the Society held on the evening of April 13, 1903, the topic discussed was "Why the City Went Westward." Those taking part were Glenn Brown, J. Dudley Morgan, Allen C. Clark, W. B. Bryan and Hugh T. Taggart. Mr. Brown's remarks were illustrated by stereopticon slides. What was said by the several speakers in regard to the various phases of this subject follows.

L'ENFANT'S IDEA AS TO HOW THE CAPITOL BUILDING SHOULD FACE.

By J. DUDLEY MORGAN, M.D.

In opening my remarks I have to say that I had prepared myself with a few facts, intending to depend upon information to be obtained from the preceding speaker (who, I understand, is *non est*) to enable me to enlarge my discourse. I trust, therefore, the members present will take that into consideration in any criticism they may make of my remarks, especially in the direction of their brevity.

By close attention to a subject its importance is magnified in one's mind. This is to be observed in everyday business and professional life. The professor in the law and the medical school dilates upon his subject to such an extent that his hearers are asked to believe, as does the professor, that his subject is the most important in the curriculum. And this aberration of the professor's mind is well understood by his auditors.

Of course, I consider the division of the discussion leaves the whole question, the kernel of the nut, in my hands, as it includes L'Enfant's idea.

It is admitted that the "President's Palace" and "Congress House," as they were originally called, were located or drawn on L'Enfant's map, who exhibited it to General Washington in August, 1791, and by whose orders it was hung in the House of Representatives in December of the same year. Although the Capitol was not commenced until 1793, the quarries from which stone was to be taken for the Capitol had been obtained and bought by L'Enfant and the quarrying had been started as early as 1791, and the excavation, or the proposition for the further excavation of the Capitol, was laid down in the plans drawn by L'Enfant for 1792. Those are now in existence. L'Enfant in speaking of the excavations for the Capitol, used these words:

"The planting of the wall of the terrace fronting from Congress House towards the President's Palace and for the gradual ascent to the Federal Square"—

which was the Capitol Square—

"which will be made of earth from the foundation."

Also in this map, the original map of L'Enfant, was laid down the grand principal avenue, which was one hundred and sixty feet in breadth. This avenue was to be bordered on one side by the principal Executive Departments and mansions, many of which had been already allotted to foreign legations, one in particular I remember, the Portuguese Legation, on the north side near the Capitol. On the other side was to be a "Grand Canal made up of fresh flowing water coming from the base of the Capitol through a cascade twenty

feet in depth"—I am quoting now—" and fifty feet in breadth, into a reservoir; thence by three falls through the gardens to form the Grand Canal."

L'Enfant knew, and thought everyone else understood, that the Capitol was to face westward, and that the city would go likewise. We see this from the position that he gave to the Executive Buildings, the placement of the foreign legations this side of the Capitol and along the avenue, by laying out the Executive grounds, drives and gardens, and by the location of the equestrian statue of Washington, which was to be placed where the Monument now is, etc.

No one can read the letters of L'Enfant, or those written to him, without coming to the conclusion that he expected the city to go westward. In a letter to David Burns, dated Georgetown, December 21, 1791, he tells David Burns that his square, No. 171, would border on the grandest or best improvements of the city, and it was important that the mansion that David Burns should build there should be in keeping with those improvements. This was down by the present Corcoran Art Gallery.

In a letter which L'Enfant wrote to Thomas Jefferson March 11, 1791, shortly after L'Enfant arrived in Georgetown, he tells Jefferson that he rode over the surrounding country, taking in that part of the Federal City down by the river and in the region of Tiber Creek or Goose Creek, as he called it, and up by the Heights of Georgetown, and that there were many beautiful locations which seemed—I am trying to get the words exactly as he used them—"to rival with each other to command a beautiful view of the Potomac, and that the Heights above Georgetown absolutely command the whole." Replying to L'Enfant about a week after this in a letter from Philadelphia, Jefferson says:

“There are certainly considerable advantages on the Eastern Branch, but there are very strong reasons also in favor of the position between Rock Creek & Tiber independent of the face of the ground. It is the desire that the public mind should be in equilibrio between the two places till the President arrives, and we shall be obliged to you to endeavor to poise their expectation.”

In the notes of L’Enfant, I find that he had evidently remembered this injunction of Jefferson’s to poise the location between the central part of the city and that down by the Eastern Branch; and I pause right here to read one paragraph in relation thereto, a paragraph which has some bearing on the question here being discussed. This paper, which I exhibit, concerns L’Enfant’s estimates for the improvements of the Federal City for 1792, and throughout it has considerable reference to the President’s Palace and the Congress House, as, I have said, L’Enfant called them:—

“To build two good stone bridges”—

this, as I say, is one of the estimates of 1792—

“First, one over rock”—

he means Rock Creek—

“and one over the Canal. That over Rock Creek will be first engaged in, to effect a communication with the post road and for establishing necessary intercourse, the reducing the post road will fill the abutment and adjoining wharf, which wharf and another on the east branch at the nearest communication with Congress House will be established for landing materials and for equal encouragement of improvements in that part”—

Note these words—

“and for equal encouragement of improvements in that part”; that is the eastern part of the city.

Jefferson warned L'Enfant about distributing the improvements between Rock Creek and the Eastern Branch, just as the commissioners are now parceling out something here and something over there. That bridge over Rock Creek was referred to at the time as being one of the best in the country, a stone bridge, and the different improvements were to keep the public "in equilibrio" between the two sections, until the sale of all the lots had been completed. That was the question then—the sale of lots throughout the city and to prevent speculation.

On this map, in reference to that bridge, the stone bridge of which I spoke, I find the following: "A bridge superior to anything of the kind in America." That is the stone bridge over K Street. I suppose some of the abutments are there yet.

There is one other point to which I would like to call attention, while I am reading these notes of L'Enfant's, the first paragraph having some reference to the Capitol. In them the words of Old Major L'Enfant are very peculiar:

"The opening of the year 1792 in the Federal City should be directed to the following objects, first, to continue clearing the cellars and begin laying the foundations of the two principal buildings, they to be brought forward to such a stage as that they will be safe from injury the next winter, for which (those two objects) the number of men that will be necessary, as I said in the margin against each, is one hundred and fifty men."

One hundred and fifty men were needed to clear out the cellars of the President's House and Congress House, or, as he called it, "the cellars of the two principal buildings."

To show his faith in the growth of the city and the way in which he expected it to go, L'Enfant (this is

an argument "deductione"; I have nothing, of course, that says that L'Enfant absolutely said the city was going westward; it must be proved by deduction) purchased a lot on the first of October, 1791. This was not the same lot that the Commissioners offered to him later. I say this that the lots may not be confused. October 1, 1791, L'Enfant purchased Lot 30 in Square 127, which is on Seventeenth Street, between I and K, northwest. I think it takes in part of the present Faragut Flats. L'Enfant paid for that Lot 90 pounds, one fourth of which was paid in cash at the time of the purchase.

As I remarked in the beginning, I was supposed to discuss this question, after the reading of the paper by Mr. Glenn Brown; but the discussion taking precedence of the leading paper, it has rather put the cart before the horse. I have here for exhibition the receipt to Major L'Enfant for his lot on Seventeenth Street, between I and K. If there be any connections of his here—he was not a married man—they may come forward and lay claim to this valuable piece of ground.

THE PRESIDENT: Will the gentleman kindly read that paper in full?

DR. MORGAN: Yes.

"At a public Sale of Lots in the City of Washington, Peter Charles L'Enfant became purchaser of Lot number thirty in square number one hundred and twenty seven, for the consideration of ninety pounds current money of Maryland on the terms and conditions published at the same sale:

"And he hath accordingly paid one fourth part of the said consideration money and given Bond, with security, for the payment of the residue; on the payment whereof, with in-

terest, according to the said Bond of the said Peter Charles L'Enfant or his assigns will be entitled to a conveyance in fee.

"1st October 1791
 Square No 127 Lot No. 30

W. JOHNSON DD. STUART DANL. CARROLL	} } }	Commrs."
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THE PLAN OF THE CITY AND ITS EXPECTED GROWTH.

REMARKS BY GLENN BROWN.

The portions of the city which the original designers considered the most important, and in which they must have naturally expected the prominent residences, commercial and official buildings to be erected, are clearly shown by the plan of the city. The imposing frontage of the two structures, the Capitol and President's House, both of which were contemporaneous with the beginning of the city, clearly indicate the idea.

The map of L'Enfant and the first engraved map made from it in 1792, with only such modifications as would be expected in the process of study for reproduction, clearly show the intention of Washington and L'Enfant.

The Capitol crowning the hill with its architectural front toward the grand opening and vista through the center of mall, which has been called a boulevard, looks toward the broad water surface of the river on the west. The President's House with its principal or garden front faces south with a magnificent view directly down the Potomac, where it runs between the pleasing hills of Virginia and Maryland on either side.

These sites were not selected at hap-hazard. The good judgment, artistic feeling and breadth of view of our founders have been abundantly proven by the pleasure derived from these selections of sites by our people in the past one hundred years. I fear few have given a thought to the care and taste of those who drew the first map of Washington.

With the Capitol on the east and the White House on the west, the mall became the connecting link be-

tween the legislative and executive branches of the Government. The principal buildings are suggested on the north and south of the mall, where they would have formed, if from Madison's time to our own, such locations had not been ignored, an imposing series of governmental or diplomatic edifices. Their principal or architectural fronts on the mall, and their utilitarian or service fronts on B Streets, north and south. By this we see that the plan of the city contemplated the Capitol as the East and the President's House as the west of the great Government garden, with numerous great buildings between these structures. The founders must naturally have expected the city to grow first between and around these focal points of interest and governmental business and activity.

It has been frequently suggested that this could not have been the case, as the mall and section of city adjoining it was low, marshy ground and not suitable for building.

Such a simple matter as reclaiming swamp land, if it **was actually swamp land**, would have weighed but lightly with men like Washington and L'Enfant. They were aiming to attain what they considered the most desirable, the most effective and artistic sites for points of interest. This is clearly proved by the line of buildings shown on L'Enfant's map and on the engraved map along the north and south of the mall.

For effectiveness their ideas have been proven right, the matter of grading and foundations would have been easy for an engineer to solve. The question of cost did not daunt the founders, as they evidently felt that the people of this country would undertake the solution of that part of the problem.

In addition to the clear indication of the architectural fronts of the various structures facing the mall

which may be drawn from the general plan, the first drawings of the Capitol and White House give more detailed evidence of this fact.

The block plan of these structures, as shown on the map, indicates the most elaborate architectural treatment on the west front of the Capitol and the south front of the White House.

In the accepted plan of the Capitol by William Thornton this is clearly shown. The ground plan gives an unimportant entrance on the east through the basement and a semicircular portico with a broad flight of steps to the principal floor on the west.

The imposing flight of steps with the semicircular portico is clearly shown in Thornton's west elevation, while the less important, the east front, is shown by his east elevation.

Latrobe, who took charge of the Capitol in 1803, was the first to change the character of the east and west fronts. He omitted the semicircular portico on the west, increased the size of the east portico, and introduced the broad flight of steps on the east in his design of 1807.

It was evidently his idea that the east should be the imposing front, and in a suggestion which he left of the mall treatment, he ignored its design as a part of the great scheme and as the garden approach to the Capitol. Thus he separated the Capitol and the White House from the great scheme of the city and belittled both buildings and park by such division.

This may indicate that at this time Latrobe may have been following a general impression that Capitol Hill would be the principal part of the city, or it may have been his pleasure to introduce his own ideas and ignore the plans of Washington, L'Enfant and Thornton.

Bulfinch, when he became the architect of the Capitol, made an elevation for the east to conform with the elevation of Thornton, but Latrobe's scheme for the central portico and steps carried the day and was built, being completed under Bulfinch's superintendence.

The early designs for the White House show the principal architectural treatment on the south, the north front was much less elaborately treated than either the east, west or south elevations.

The north front was not divided by pilasters, as were the other fronts.

The north portico was an afterthought and was not completed until 1830.

The south portico was completed about 1820; the evidence is not clear whether it was intended in the original design, while there is clear evidence that the north portico was not indicated.

A plan made while the White House was in charge of B. H. Latrobe as surveyor and Hoban as architect shows very clearly that as late as 1807 the south front was considered the principal architectural front.

To recapitulate, the original plans show the mall with public buildings on the north and south; the Capitol closing the vista and completing the design on the east, and the White House closing the vista on the north as a completion of the scheme; with the principal front of the White House looking down Pennsylvania Avenue, toward the principal front of the Capitol; a reciprocity of sight between them as expressed by L'Enfant on his map.

The above facts prove conclusively that the idea of the designers was to make most important the portion of the city between the Capitol and the White House.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTERN SECTION AND THE POLICY
OF THE LAND OWNERS

REMARKS BY ALLEN C. CLARK.

As to the jealous "trifles light as air" are confirmations strong, so to the antiquarian incidents are events; events, epochs. The antiquarian's ambition that nothing shall perish which would profit posterity is a laudable one, and if he happens in his zeal to magnify, surely he is not beyond grace. So much is an intimation, I fear I may be charged with triviality.

The first words of the first report, March 26, 1791, of L'Enfant are: "After coming upon the hill from the Eastern Branch ferry, the country is level and on a space of about two miles each way present a most eligible position for the first settlement of a grand City"; he supplements a comparison—if not the most advantageous in the limits of the Federal territory, at least, in that part between the Eastern Branch and Georgetown.

L'Enfant decided the east end the best adapted to mercantile pursuit. He indicated on his map that East Capitol Street should be an avenue of bazaars; that each side should be an arched way with shops, conveniently and agreeably situated.

L'Enfant decided the Eastern Branch the better adapted to commerce. He reports it preferable to the Potomac as less liable to the impeding of ice and the swelling of freshets, and that its channel is deeper and closer to shore. This was the consensus of opinion of the travellers. Weld says:

"Thousands of vessels might lie here, and sheltered from all danger, arising either from freshets, or from ice upon the breaking up of a severe winter."

L'Enfant on the map provided the entire city front of the Branch with wharves and shipping facility.

The historian likened to an artist of the brush and pencil might from all that is contemporary derive the detail, which sometime dovetail, for pictures presenting a progressive panorama of the formative time—the plantations, the mansions near the water and the road that skirts; open spaces and stumps through the waste and wilderness, the new streets; a mansion here and there, built and being built; even the actors in the first scene, all strong characters, their careers and their characteristics.

Plats of the plantations and outlines of their mansions and appurtenant buildings are preserved. Charles Carroll, the father of Daniel Carroll of Duddington, had his mansion on the bank of the Eastern Branch due south of the site of the Congress house; William Prout's home site is within the enclosure of the Navy Yard; the three Youngs had the eastern front, Elizabeth (Wheeler) and her brother, William, had their dwellings where is the Congressional Cemetery, their brother, Abraham, had his where Fifteenth and D Streets, northeast, intersect. Their road, which connected two ferries, is traceable even at this day. Elizabeth, the widow Wheeler, plied the south ferry; she was the ferryman. The plantation acquired afterwards by George Walker had its house near Maryland Avenue and Sixth Street, northeast.

Samuel Blodget was speculator number one. Mr. Bryan said "Blodget was very much a man." Indeed he was. Of cultured family, of extensive experience, of varied learning, he, too, was an author and had as much originality in his style as in his schemes. His "Economica: A Statistical Manual of the United States," is a comprehensive compilation of present

utility and the copy of the Library of Congress has been in the use of the Coast and Geodetic Survey for a period. Another work, "Thoughts on the Increasing Wealth of the United States," was also printed in Washington. These are of the earliest publications. It was Blodget's conception to discharge the public debt by a multiplication of the population; that is, the more the people, the less to each person; if the people can be sufficiently increased the proportion to each one will be exceedingly slight; in fact, not worth mentioning, and why mention it. It was not the origination of Blodget, it was of Dr. Adam Smith in his "Wealth of Nations," but Blodget accepted it, that is, to measure the commercial prosperity of a country by the demand for widows. Let me give it to you exact:

"A young widow (in the middle and back country) with four or five young children, who among the middling or inferior ranks of people in Europe would have so little chance for a second husband, is there frequently courted as a fort of fortune."

Mr. Blodget had a surcharge of faith in his country "selected by an indulgent providence to become hereafter *The Greatest and Most Powerful Nation of the Universe.*" In flamboyant rhetoric and spread type his exaltations in comparison make the flourishes of the imperialist insipid. Our progressive country is far in the rear of Blodget's prophecy and it is going to be more industrious to catch up, for he accepted Dr. Franklin's estimate that the people in 1896 would number one hundred and sixty million.

In Philadelphia Dr. Thornton and Mr. Blodget were amateur architects. Its most authentic history appears to give Blodget the precedence; it says he drew the plan of the Bank of the United States, and upon its

completion he drew upon himself the panegyrics of the public prints; one saw a remarkable resemblance with the Roman temple at Nismes and another saw a close copy of the Dublin Exchange.

In Washington, Thornton and Blodget were associated in a friendly way and in a financial way. Blodget built Thornton's residence which the latter afterwards acquired. I do not know that Blodget collaborated with Thornton in the Capitol design; he certainly was consulted. Blodget was the Superintendent of Public Buildings.

Of Blodget's lottery schemes, Gen. Washington foretold they "will be more productive of thorns than roses." As early as November 21, 1791, Jefferson submitted to the Commissioners Blodget's scheme to build an entire street. The Commissioners granted it October 10, 1792. Washington deprecated the concession; he need not have. The mansions were of the skies and being air-built had no need of earthly foundations and had none. The square is 688; now the southeast angle of the Capitol Park. It was the east end's initial enterprise. It had no ending as it had no beginning.

In the east end of the Federal City the first house built was Casanovia, still standing within the lines and at the northern beginning of Delaware Avenue. It was built in 1791 by Peter Casanove, a merchant of Georgetown, who married Ann, a daughter of the proprietor, Notley Young. The second was Duddington, the mansion of Daniel Carroll of Duddington, near New Jersey Avenue, southeast (Square 736), built in 1792 or 1793.

Thomas Law, scion of a noble English family, brother of Lord Ellenborough and of eminent ecclesiastics, had in a princely position in India amassed a

fortune. He and Captain William Mayne Duncanson crossed the Atlantic in company. In New York, Law met Greenleaf, to whom he advanced a considerable sum with Washington City lots as security and an option to receive them in payment. Law with Duncanson visited the Federal City and greatly enthused over its prospects.

Mr. Law and Miss Eliza Parke Custis, Mrs. Washington's granddaughter, became attuned in spirit to the same harmony and were consecrated to each other. Mr. Law hired the mansion on Greenleaf Point, where the honeymoon was celebrated. Mr. Thomas Twining, a young Englishman in the employ of the East India Company, made a touring vacation. He was invited to tarry with Mr. and Mrs. Law. From Georgetown, on horseback, he had reached the Capitol. He says:

"Looking from where I now stood I saw on every side a thick wood pierced with avenues in a more or less perfect state. These denoted the lines of the intended streets, which already appeared in the engraved plan with their future names. The Capitol promised to be a large and handsome building, judging from the part, about two thirds, already above the ground. I walked through several of the lower apartments, and saw the halls designed for the representatives and senate, now in an unfinished state, and encumbered with building materials. I did not go into the tavern. It was a large building of red brick, and in a much more advanced state than the Capitol, being roofed in."

Giving to each circumstance its just proportion, it is more of confidence than conjecture the claim that the tavern was the north two houses of Carroll's Row on First Street, where is the Library of Congress. Twining's observation was April 27, 1796. September 10 Elizabeth Leslie announced in the *Washington*

Gazette the opening of the Capitol Hill Tavern, where "any number of persons may be accommodated" and that "a Shuffle Board and Nine Pin Alley are ready for those inclined to amuse themselves." These two structures, afterwards known as Stelle's Hotel, were of ample width and depth, and the only ones known which could have had the facilities described in the advertisement. The four dwellings of the row southward were not completed until 1800.

Mr. Law principally improved New Jersey Avenue from the Capitol to the Potomac. He built the range of three, now The Varnum, the opposite mansion where Judge Holt lived and the range below designated Ten Buildings. Mr. Law, September, 1796, had moved to the north house of the Varnum; afterwards he made the Holt house his home.

Mr. Law was himself the original East Washington Citizens' Association and he could detect discrimination in favor of the west end plainly enough, for he stood always on the watch-tower. Here is what he says:

"The legislature of Maryland had started a bank for the city, but it was established in George Town and the money loaned was to those who would build in the Town or at the west end of the city. A bridge was built also by the Commissioners at the city expense over Rock Creek with a draw, and it was to have the Navy Yard there and the Marine barracks were laid on its banks and the marine corps encamped there.

"The President's house was advanced rapidly and the Capitol was only above ground and the foundation was so bad that it was to be undone and commenced again. In short Mr. Stoddert, Secretary of Navy, and the majority of the Commissioners and the bank being George Town men, resolved to have Congress meet in the President's house or

in George Town College and to make the progress of the west end tend to counteract that of the Capitol.

"General Washington having been informed of these injurious ideas in the Commissioners and being displeased at witnessing the slow advancement of the Capitol ordered the Commissioners to live in the city and to encourage persons to build for the accommodation of Congress.

"That the public might have encouragement to build General Washington commenced two houses. This example gave confidence and houses were seen to spring up with rapidity, notwithstanding the natural rivalry of two adjacent towns, which had been long before established. New Jersey Avenue, then full of stumps of trees was opened to have access to the Eastern Branch, and merchants made wharves and warehouses. * * * Houses also rapidly sprang up about the Capitol although double prices were paid for workmen, bricks and materials."

Law was an effective champion for the east end. He had influence with the influential; he was a writer, and his writings were not all flash and froth. This Law had wit and he had eccentricity and so intermingled as to make applicable to himself Dryden's lines:

"Great wit to madness sure is near ally'd,
And thin partitions do their bounds divide."

Eastward from the Capitol and in the wilds, William Mayne Duncanson selected the spot for his mansion. It is on an eminence and faces the Anacostia. The captain was a land captain, but he ventured the fortunes of the sea. And like to all mariners, the firm land gives a longing for the sea, always quit too soon. From the circular window in the Grecian pediment and from all the windows southward he could see the sheen of the water, the coming and the going of the craft. The culture of the captain is indicated in the mansion

and the tree-embowered driveway and his affluence in the provision for his equipage. The mansion and its grounds, an ample square (875), is as it was. Here lived the captain and the captain's sister, Miss Martha Duncanson. And if her spirit shone outwardly, she was good to see. Robert Morris mentions her in an admiring way. The brave captain, as second for Miss Martha, challenged Mr. Morris, as second for his daughter, Maria, for a foot-race through Pennsylvania Avenue. Connected with the mansion the four years the captain lived in it is incident, scheme and treachery sufficient for several novels.

Farther eastward, the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Ninth Street, was Tunnicliff's Tavern, the Eastern Branch Hotel, opened December 14, 1796. The permanents were sparse and the transients infrequent, so he resorted to trade, and as an adjunct to the hostelry conducted a haberdashery and advertised "fleecy hosiery" and the such like. The hotel keeper had another help; he had a wife of magnetic quality.

Across the way from Tunnicliff's was Lewis Debois' store. That is replaced by the Marine Hospital.

George Walker was a Scot. He came from Philadelphia about the time that Blodget did and evinced his enthusiasm in the purchase of a great tract extending from the Branch all the way across Capitol Hill. He married a belle of Upper Marlboro, but was soon a widower. He built a store near the Capitol just in the rear of where was the Old Capitol Prison and stocked it. Mr. Walker would saunter over to the captain's. Perhaps Miss Duncanson had nothing to do with his calls; perhaps it was to consult the captain concerning his grievances with the commissioners and draw inspiration from the captain's sword hung upon the wall. Hardly that, for he had sufficient of the spirit of Mars

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for a battalion. He was born at Falkirk, built upon the heights. He was not yet five years of age when he heard the wailing pibrochs and saw the flashing claymores of the invading horde of kilted Highlanders in the narrow streets of Falkirk. Always he could see the plain below where Wallace, the champion of Scotland, held high its standard. Always he could in another view see the wall, scene of sanguinary struggles, the Caledonian and Roman wall which silently warned—thus far and no farther. To Walker war had been a continuous story and it came easy for him to write to the commissioners:

“Notwithstanding the haughty and arrogant manner with which you affect to treat the original proprietors of the east end of the city you will please to recollect that you and even your master the President, are only public servants, bound by certain limits, which will be found too strong for you to break through.”

Persistently appear descriptions in the public prints of the oldest mansion built by a planter in the reign of Queen Anne, two hundred years and more ago. A casual look at the Duncanson structures will convince their placing is in accord with the city plan; a part are on the building line, exactly. However, in the chancery cause, Ray against Duncanson, is the account of the architect and builder, William Lovering, in pounds, shillings and pence.

The opening of a street destroyed Abraham Young's dwelling. He built a more pretentious one on the county side of Fifteenth Street. It stands to-day. Its history, or rather a sketch of Abraham's widow, would take a paper, and it would be not without humor. She bothered not with the law's summonses to appear; she did not seem to comprehend notices to quit and so

she stayed and stayed; she was defendant in a chancery bill, the complainant exhausted, died and the bill abated until his heirs were substituted; the lawyers in the first instance died and others stood in their stead; but the widow, she stayed and stayed; she married again and the daughter of the second venture was given in marriage and the son grew to manhood in that very same house.

Twenty Building Hill, they dubbed it. The eminence was so styled after the contract between Daniel Carroll of Duddington and James Greenleaf, the latter representing the syndicate, Morris, Nicholson and Greenleaf. Carroll was to contribute twenty lots and Greenleaf was to build twenty houses, within three years from the date of the contract, September 26, 1793. Morris and Nicholson inherited the building obligation, and being convinced of Carroll's stubbornness and severity, three months before the time limit began operations and pursued them with utmost expedition. Each independently undertook fifteen houses.

The forenoon of the last day, the nail was driven which made all covered in. At once a grand barbecue was held. Right in front of the structures, in the middle of South Capitol Street, improvised tables of sheathing extended, along which the guests disposed themselves, the hosts, Mr. Morris and Mr. Nicholson, at the head. Mr. William Prentiss, Nicholson's builder, had received instruction what to do and the wherewithal to do it, and that means much, for Morris's "luxury was not to be outdone by any commercial voluptuary of London" and "was to be found nowhere else in America." The guests were two hundred and more; prominent people, but more the knights of the crafts, and especially those whose handiwork was in view.

Robert Morris, the financier of the American Revolution, was all but six foot, stout and ruddy. His gray hair hung long and loose; his gray eyes twinkled like small stars; and gray was his suit to match. When, this eventful day, September 26, 1796, he arose and cleared his throat, his grandeur of stature and strength impressed silence; when he proceeded in his usual vein, for he was an expert jollier, his audience broke into responsive mirth; when he turned sharply to the serious, his audience was quickly in the same spirit, and when he climbed the climax, even if the prominent citizens were too dignified to applaud save by clapping, I am inclined to think the artisans tossed their caps into the air.

I said the houses were covered in; only four were completed, the others were in various stages of construction. Nothing more was done by Morris or Nicholson on Twenty Building Hill and little else by them anywhere, for they had exhausted every expediency in financeering. Morris and Nicholson were close friends and closer still as their distress deepened. When not talking to each other they were so writing. However, Nicholson never wrote more than eleven letters to Morris in one day.

Morris must have thought of his unfinished buildings perched upon the promontory when he read Luke xvi: 28, 29, 30:

“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

“Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him;

“Saying this man began to build, and was not able to finish it.”

Mr. Morris, impressed with the scriptural lesson, decided it his duty to impart it to his co-unfortunate, John Nicholson. Mr. Morris with a preface "as I have not the Scripture at my Finger Ends I will not attempt to imitate the stile in which you excell" writes, November 20, 1796:

"For he telleth stories against John the manufacturer, who undertaketh to build Houses and leaveth them unbuilt, even altho' he hath promised to raise them unto the third story and put a roof thereon—Still they do not rise above the Surface of the Earth but various and numerous are the Tales and Traditions against not only John but Robert—Know thou these men."

Mr. Carroll seized the houses. He did nothing to preserve them. Ere long their aspect was desolation and dilapidation. From their elevation they could not be overlooked and they were not by the wits at home and abroad. From a description in the *Commercial Advertiser*, 1824, I cull:

"On a knowl south of Capitol Hill stands an object of peculiar dreariness; it is a row of twenty brick buildings; * * *. There they stand, with roofs sunk in and grass growing in the windows looking as if they had been bombarded by the British. One of them has a family in it, but the inmates look like Arabs among the ruins of Balbec."

Morris and Nicholson tendered, February 16, 1796, to Carroll eight thousand dollars on account of the land purchase if he would concede one year on the building contract. Carroll refused by word and reiterated in writing. Greenleaf, who succeeded to the management of the syndicate affairs, after an overture, pursued its rights to the tribunal of highest resort, and Carroll was defeated. His obstinacy cost him fifty thousand dollars.

It is a tradition that Carroll's cupidity retarded the growth of the east end. No circumstance indicates that he did not accord with the other large holders. They thought they had enough and to spare and of their El Dorado evinced a spirit to share, seemingly self-sacrificing. In the vicinity of the Capitol, Carroll and Law were about equal owners. Richard Parkinson took note of an offer in 1797; says he in his "Tour in America": Mr. Law "offered to let Mr. Lyles and me have any lot we choose, at the price it cost him, and leave the money on common interest for any time we should mention." Morris and Nicholson had more lots than all; they had them in nearly every square. This is what Morris writes to

"*His Excellency*

"GEO. WASHINGTON ESQ

"No body can suppose that Mr. Nicholson or myself entered into these engagements with an expectation of holding the property. It was from the beginning & is now our intention to resell when it can be done to our satisfaction & I believe the interest of the City will be more certainly promoted by interesting a number of Individuals, than by one or two men, continuing to hold a large number of Lotts."

The letter's date is September 21, 1795. By 1800 the proprietors were all in a line with their offerings in the columns of the *Intelligencer*, each of his generosity trying to outboast the other. The reason they did not advertise before was there was no paper to advertise in. I have no notion that Carroll asked prohibitive prices; even if he did, his action could not have obstructed the development. There was a superabundance of vacancy. Carroll was a good citizen; his fellow-citizens gave recognition of his worth by their suffrages. He built substantially. In three squares

(686, 687 and 729) adjoining the Capitol, in the first assessment for taxation, his buildings are appraised at sixty-two thousand dollars.

In my youth when my companions and myself passed a particular part of the most eastern extremity we did so with bated breath and stealthy step for fear we might cause to ignite the powder in the magazine and there would be visitors in the skies. Where the magazine is marked on the map and where are the almshouse and paupers' field, was a public garden established by Theodore Holt in 1797 and continued by him until his death in or about 1812. A garden of green delight it was, primeval trees of the forest, spaces cleared of the tangle of undergrowth, picturesque nooks and winding paths, vistas and views of the shining waters of the Anacostia toward which the land gently inclined. To the first inhabitants it was a retreat where they repaired for recreation in leisure and in pastime.

The sugar refinery promoted by Mr. Law was at the foot of New Jersey Avenue, on the west side of the canal basin. The "Sugar House," as it was commonly called, was forty-seven feet by forty-six, the main building eight stories, the wing, five. Mr. James Piercy, the proprietor, began to boil sugar in the summer of 1798. The enterprise was an enormous failure. The building towered "proudly eminent" half a century.

Mr. James Barry, who, like Mr. Law, had lived in India, was located in Baltimore. He engaged extensively in merchant marine. He and Law were soon associated in various ventures. Law, July 4, 1795, writes:

"Barry is urgent—he wants to erect a store there & to purchase grain & to build a ship—I mean to set up an

agency house with him for East India commissions in short I wish to benefit myself by promoting the City."

Barry came to the Capitol City. His wharf was on the eastern side of the canal basin. From Barry's wharf sailed, April, 1797, the ship *Maryland*, burthen four hundred tons, laden with bread and flour—the first bound for a foreign port.

Mr. Gallatin to Mrs. Gallatin writes:

WASHINGTON CITY, 15th January, 1801.

"Our local situation is far from being pleasant or even convenient. Around the Capitol are seven or eight boarding-houses, one tailor, one shoemaker, one printer, a washing-woman, a grocery shop, a pamphlets and stationery shop, a small dry-goods shop, and an oyster house. This makes the whole of the Federal city as connected with the Capitol. At the distance of three-fourths of a mile, on or near the Eastern Branch, lie scattered the habitations of Mr. Law and of Mr. Carroll, the principal proprietaries of the ground, half a dozen houses, a very large but perfectly empty warehouse, and a wharf graced by not a single vessel. And this makes the whole intended commercial part of the city, unless we include in it what is called the Twenty Buildings, being so many unfinished houses commenced by Morris and Nicholson, and perhaps as many undertaken by Greenleaf, both which groups lie, at the distance of half-mile from each other, near the mouth of the Eastern Branch and the Potowmack, and are divided by a large swamp from the Capitol Hill and the little village connected with it."

Mr. Gallatin does not mention the small settlement farther east near Tunnicliff's Hotel and thence southward to the Navy Yard. The official census of the east end buildings, May 15, 1800, is: Finished 76 brick and 149 wood houses; unfinished 14 brick and 13 wood houses; this is, exclusive of the houses on Twenty Building Hill.

“When found, make a note of.” I have taken Captain Cuttle’s advice once, to leaven the whole, for whoever told anything more charmingly than William Wirt? Wirt was born and bred in Bladensburg and here is what he says:

“Next comes that wonder of childhood, the Wire Dancer, with his balancings and other accomplishments. * * * This was Mr. Templeman, a dancer on the slackwire. The exhibition was in Tattison’s dancing room. We got there at early candle light. The room was brilliantly lighted. A large wire fastened at each end of the room, near the ceiling, hung in a curve, the middle of it within twelve or fifteen inches of the floor. I remember the pouring in of the company till the room was filled, as the phrase is, ‘with all the beauty and fashion of the place.’ Still better do I remember, after a note of preparation from another room, which bespoke and commanded silence, the entrée of Templeman—a tall man, superbly attired in a fanciful dress; of a military air, with a drum hung over his shoulder by a scarlet scarf. It was such a picture as I had never seen. Saluting the company with dignity, he placed himself upon the wire; then giving a hand to his attendant, he was drawn to one side of the room, and, being let go, swung at ease,—beating the drum like a professional performer. He performed all the usual exploits, balancing hoops, swords, etc.—and, to crown the whole, danced what I had never seen before, a hornpipe, in superior style;—his spangled shoes, in the rapidity of his steps, producing upon me a most brilliant effect. My own imitative propensity came again into play, and I became a celebrated hornpipe-dancer before I was six years of age;—meaning by *celebrated*, such celebrity as spread through about one-third of our little village. The image of Templeman rose before me as something of another age, or another sphere when, about forty years after I had seen him swinging in such splendor on the wire, I met in Washington a well dressed gentleman-like person, somewhat corpulent, who was made

known to me as the paragon of my childish admiration, converted into a plain citizen, and an extensive dealer in city lots."

No greater wisdom or truer forecast apropos of the nation's city was ever expressed than by Mr. John Templeman, at Georgetown, January 20, 1804:

"The operation of government will continue the growth of the city; but not in any proportion equal to what would take place when commercial operations were combined with those of government."

And so you see in the earliest days they looked to Georgetown for wisdom on questions commercial; and, in these days, here, we continue to look there still.

THE CENTRAL SECTION OF THE CITY.

BY W. B. BRYAN.

The development of the central portion of the city began somewhat later than the other principal sections. What is meant by the central portion might be generally described as that part of the city along and in the vicinity of Pennsylvania Avenue and extending from Sixth Street west to Tenth or Eleventh Street west. While all this activity which has been described was taking place on Capitol Hill, where Mr. Law and Mr. Carroll made extensive improvements, and while Mr. James Hoban and Mr. Peirce Purcell were building in the vicinity of the President's Square, and Mr. James Greenleaf, in addition to the buildings which he was erecting at Greenleaf's Point, was also erecting the Six Buildings on Pennsylvania Avenue, between Twenty-first and Twenty-second Streets, there was practically very little being done in the central section of the city. The oldest inhabitant—and for this he only had recollection—delighted to tell his descendants how he fished in Tiber Creek at Pennsylvania Avenue, and how he also shot reed birds there. That is undoubtedly correct. Pennsylvania Avenue was practically built through a marsh, and it was not until 1807 that the grade of the avenue was raised above the prevailing level of that region.

In view of the conditions existing there it is surprising that it did become the central portion of the city. If you will recall the Tiber, as shown in the early maps of the city, you will remember that it was a large stream which, rising north of the Capitol, flowed south past the west edge of Capitol Hill and entered what

is now called the mall, emptying into the Potomac at about the foot of Seventeenth Street. At the latter point it was what might be called a wide arm of the river, and must have been seven or eight hundred feet wide and extending at a considerable width for some distance up into the city. When the periodical freshets in the river occurred the water overflowed the banks on both sides, leaving, when it receded, a marsh or swamp.

On the King Plats of the city, made in 1803, there is a line drawn, indicating, as it appears, the northern border of the Tiber. This line starts from about the foot of Seventeenth Street, at the mouth of the Tiber, and pursues a diagonal course to the northeast, crossing C Street at about Thirteenth Street, continuing in a northeasterly direction, touching Pennsylvania Avenue near Ninth Street; thence it turns to the south and crosses what is now the Centre Market Square. The line stops at B Street. The eastward course of the canal is there delineated as along B Street, turning to the north, between Sixth and Seventh Streets, and continuing as far as the southern border of Pennsylvania Avenue. Passing along that thoroughfare as far as Third Street, it bends to the south.

As late as 1812 a writer in the *National Intelligencer*, speaking of the condition of Washington, asserted that the whole of the region between the avenue and the Tiber was a swamp.

You will also recall from the pictures that have been thrown on the screen—of L'Enfant's and also of the first engraved plan—that the gardens of the Capitol extended for some distance west of the Capitol, the larger portion of which is included in what is now called the mall. At that time, however, the public grounds lay on each side of Pennsylvania Avenue; on

the north side as far west as Four-and-a-half Street, on the south side as far as Sixth Street. The squares now known as reservations 10, 11 and 12, on the north side, and A and B, on the south side, were originally parts of the mall. It was not until 1822 that, acting under authority of Congress, the corporation sold those squares and the proceeds were used by the Washington Canal Company to divert the channel of the canal from its course bordering the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue east of Sixth Street to a line midway between Pennsylvania Avenue and Maryland Avenue. Then, too, for a number of years in the early period of the city, Sixth Street west was the dividing line between the wards constituting the eastern and western sections. The third and fourth wards were known as the eastern section of the city, which began at Sixth Street west.

These were the conditions that existed up to 1800 and for some years later. The first thing done that favorably affected what might be called this section was the choice in 1796 of the sites of the Government Departments, in the vicinity of the President's House. Of course, the effect of that was not manifest at that time and not until after the Government had come here, perhaps a year or two after, was it realized what it meant to the business and residential interests of the city.

The testimony of Thomas Law as to this particular influence is convincing. In a pamphlet entitled "Observations on the Intended Canal in Washington City," printed in the year 1804, he said:

"Unfortunately also the public buildings being placed at a distance from each other created a division among the inhabitants: and the question has always been agitated, which

end of the city would preponderate? * * * During the last year the greatest number of buildings have been erected along Pennsylvania Avenue and its streets in the vicinity between the public buildings. The reason is obvious; the members of Congress and visitors are equidistant from the President's House and offices and the Capitol."

The location of the department buildings in the vicinity of the President's House was formally determined by President Washington in the year 1796. A vigorous effort was made to change this design and especially by those who believed that the vicinity of the Capitol was the proper place. An appeal was made to Congress and also to President Adams soon after he came into office, but neither were willing to reverse the action of the first President.

An interesting account of the location of the Executive Departments near the President's House is given in a series of documents sent February 6, 1818, to the House of Representatives by Samuel Lane, the commissioner of public buildings. Extracts from some of them will be pertinent.

President Washington, writing to the commissioners of the city from Mount Vernon under date of October 21, 1796, said:

"As the business of the executive offices will be chiefly, if not altogether, with the President, sites for these offices ought to be convenient to his residence; but as the identical spots can be better chosen on the ground, with the plan of the city before one, than by the latter alone, I shall postpone this decision until my arrival there."

In a subsequent letter to the commissioners dated Philadelphia, March 3, 1797, President Washington writes:

“Three things relative to the city of Washington call for my decision, and this is the last day I have power to give any. * * * The second to my approbation of the plans for the executive offices. * * *

“The second not only meets my approbation, but is much approved also by the heads of Departments, and may, when the funds and other circumstances will permit, be carried into effect, for which purpose the plans are returned with my approving signature.”

One of the commissioners of the city (Mr. White) writing from Philadelphia, March 11, 1798, to his associates on the board in Washington, stated that President Adams was of the opinion that “the executive offices ought to be as near the Capitol as a convenient place could be found for them, as well as for the accommodation of members of Congress, who have frequent occasion to recur to those offices, as a means of collecting the inhabitants to a point, so as to secure accommodations for the government when the time came for its removal, but that he would not reverse the orders of his predecessor without knowing your sentiments.”

Messrs. Gustavus Scott and William Thornton, commissioners of the city, replying to this letter under date of Washington, March 16, 1798, said:

“When the late President of the United States called together the original proprietors who granted the soil on which the federal city was to be erected, he laid before them a plan, with the present appropriations for the Capitol, and President’s House, and the offices for the several departments contiguous to the latter; and under the faith of these several appropriations, then publicly declared, the proprietors agreed to make the several grants which afterwards took place. These two appropriations, viz., for the Capitol and the President’s House, the only ones made until the year 1796, were published on the engraved plan promulgated by the President

and were declared to be sanctioned by him at all the public sales of lots which took place at the early period of the city."

From Georgetown, March 15, 1798, Robert Peter and Samuel Davidson, two of the original proprietors, wrote to the commissioners as follows:

"We hope it will not be forgotten that the late President, at a meeting between himself and the proprietors of the ground in the city, produced the plan of the city which he had determined to adopt, placing the offices for the Treasury and other Departments near the President's House and that this took place before the deeds were given by the proprietors for the grounds. At the same time the President explained his reasons for fixing these buildings convenient to the President's House. More than fifty people attended on this session and witnessed this transaction. Mr. Young, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Burns, and others in the city must remember the circumstances here mentioned. Nor can you have forgotten, gentlemen, that President Washington fixed on the actual spots for these buildings when on his way to Congress in October, 1796."

In a letter to President Adams, dated Washington, April 18, 1798, the commissioners of the city say that President Washington was of the opinion that the executive offices ought to be near the President's House "for this very obvious reason—that the business of the heads of the Departments was principally with the President; and not only so, but he stated that it was a universal complaint among them that, while the Legislature was in session, they could do little or no business; so much were they interrupted by the individual members that they were often obliged to go home, and deny themselves in order to transact the current business of their Departments."

In a letter dated Philadelphia, May 11, 1798, Presi-

dent Adams directed the commissioners to proceed with the erection of the executive offices as planned by them, thus closing the controversy.

The statement made by Messrs. Peter and Davidson as to the intention of President Washington relative to the location of the public offices drew from Daniel Carroll, of Duddington, a spirited protest, which he sent to the chairman of the House Committee on Public Buildings, March 17, 1818. In the course of this letter Mr. Carroll said:

“I am compelled in justice to myself and others to declare that until now I had never understood such an intention. Indeed I had always understood that they were to be placed near the Capitol; and about 1791 or 92 when the plan of the city was laid before the proprietors by Gen. Washington no site was fixed on except for the Capitol and the President’s House and the plan now in existence at the Commissioners’ office will speak for itself. At the time of fixing or commencing the offices near the President’s House, Messrs. Notley Young, Walker, Barry, Law and myself, all deceased, except Mr. Law, who well remembers the circumstances, waited upon Mr. Scott to remonstrate against their being fixed contrary to the general opinion; this, these gentlemen would never have done (at that time, too, when the subject was fresh in the minds of each) had they been fixed by the plan of the city near the President’s House and we were indignantly received by Mr. Scott when we made our business known and left him with disgust seeing by improper management, they were determined to place the offices, where they had never been intended to be placed and which is certainly fully shown by the documents themselves.”

In the early years, when the commissioners were getting the city in readiness, so far as may be judged now—there is some question as to this—they endeavored to treat the several sections with uniform fairness.

They built a bridge over Rock Creek. But, although it was made of stone, and looked very substantial, it subsequently fell down. They also constructed a bridge over Tiber Creek at Seventh Street and one over James Creek at N Street, southwest. As showing the condition of the Tiber at that time, there is mention made of a causeway leading to the Seventh Street bridge, demonstrating that there was a stretch of marsh ground necessary to be passed over in order to reach the bridge.

In addition to bridges to facilitate communication between the different parts of the city, roads were also constructed.

I had forgotten to mention that the commissioners prior to the year 1796 began the work of making a connection between Tiber Creek and James Creek—the latter having its origin south of the Capitol—with the view of using these waterways as a canal and thus carrying out the plan as laid down on the map prepared by L'Enfant and repeated in all maps of the city. But this was not completed and it was not until the year 1810 that the canal was actually constructed. A road was built from the Eastern Branch Ferry, which was established in the year 1791 near the foot of Kentucky Avenue, through the eastern section of the city. The mail road from the north entered the city at Maryland and Florida Avenues northeast, thence along the former to what was known as the F Street ridge. When the first post office of Washington City was established, in 1795, in the house of Thomas Johnson, the postmaster, on F Street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets, it is recorded that the mail road passed in front of the house.

The change in the local conditions that had taken place by the year 1806 is well indicated, it seems to me,

by the fact that at that time the post road from the north passed by the Capitol and thence westward via Pennsylvania Avenue instead of along F Street.

In addition to those roads there was one that came up from the ferry at the foot of New Jersey Avenue in a northwest direction, evidently using the two bridges, the one at M Street and the other at Seventh Street, to the Great Hotel, as Blodgett's structure was known.

Prior to 1800 there was very little done in the way of settlement in the central section. From advertisements and in some degree from the reading matter in the local newspapers of that day, it is evident that while the principal stores, the principal hotels and places of that sort which would indicate centers of population were near the Capitol, to some extent near the Navy Yard, and also near the President's Square; it was not until after 1800 that there were any indications of such structures in what I have described as the central portion of the city.

The first important improvement was made by the action of the citizens, in the fall of the year 1801, and prior to the organization of the municipal government. By popular subscription sufficient money was raised for the construction of what is known as the Centre Market, located about where it is to-day, at Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. For several years that was the only market in the city, and, of course, it formed a very important center.

In that fall the *National Intelligencer*, which had been started in the fall of 1800 in a house on New Jersey Avenue, probably south of the Capitol, was removed to a building that had been recently erected on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue, between Sixth and Seventh Streets, quite near the market. The

editor does not give any explanation of why he made the change. It is, however, a significant one, as undoubtedly showing the trend of the population at that time.

In the fall of 1801, William Duane, prominent as a printer and politician in Philadelphia, opened a printing office and book store in this city. Instead of going near the Capitol or the President's House, he bought, in 1801, a lot at the northwest corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Sixth Street, diagonally across from the office of the *Intelligencer* and the Centre Market, and there erected a building that covered the entire Sixth Street front, from Pennsylvania Avenue to C Street. He did a good deal of public printing. His contemporaries, Rapine & Co., printers and booksellers, who came here in the fall of 1800, located at First and B Streets, southeast, and there they remained for a good many years.

And there is another item of importance which is to be gleaned from the newspapers, and that is that Thomas Herty, a conveyancer, in the fall of 1802, announced that during the sessions of the Congress he would be in his office on Capitol Hill, near the Capitol, in the mornings, and for the balance of the day would be in his office on Pennsylvania Avenue, near Fifteenth Street, showing that, even at that early day, the Government Departments had begun to draw business that way. This effect became more manifest as the years went on. A salient feature in the history of the city is the gradual evolution of the central section, in spite of its natural disadvantages into the main business and residential locality. I think that anyone who will look over the advertisements of the local newspaper of that time will find that by the year 1812 the principal hotels, the only newspaper office and the principal stores were there.

There is another significant event which occurred about the year 1812. Then the Lancaster system of teaching school was introduced in this city, having been first established in Georgetown in 1811. There had been at a very early date two schools established, having a fund made up of public subscriptions and an annual appropriation by the city council, the purpose of which was to afford school privileges to the children of parents who were unable to pay tuition. One of these schools was called the western and the other the eastern. The western school was on Pennsylvania Avenue, just west of Seventeenth Street, the eastern on East Capitol Street, near First Street. With the introduction of the Lancaster system the appropriation from the public funds was given to the Lancaster school and the two public schools became private establishments. What was termed the Central School, taught according to the Lancaster system, was opened in a large building on E Street, opposite the former Blodgett Hotel. The significant feature in this connection is that the statement was made at the time that the new school was located in the central portion of the city. The evolution of the city was evidently along the line of convenience to the inhabitants. So that there can be no inference that its development was determined by the action of any individual property owner, or by the price of land in any part of the city.

OLD RESIDENCES AND FAMILY HISTORY IN THE CITY HALL NEIGHBORHOOD.

By DOUGLASS ZEVELY.

(Read before the Society May 11, 1903.)

A paper with a title similar to this one, which it was my privilege and pleasure to prepare for the Society last year, was not, as some of the members quite properly remarked at the time, so complete as it was expected to be. To have made it more exhaustive would have involved a more lengthy paper than was desirable for one evening, and what I have to offer this evening may be, therefore, considered as a conclusion of the paper of last year.

No. 313 D Street, N. W.—next to the corner of Fourth—was built by Mr. Joseph Fugitt in 1849 and was his home up to 1860. On this corner, which remained unimproved until 1859, there is a large house that was also built by Mr. Fugitt. Neither of these houses have been changed in appearance since originally built; the one next to the corner having the winding stone steps which seem to have been more popular in those days than since.

Mr. Fugitt was born in Charles Co., Maryland, in 1808, and had been a resident of this city for fifty years at the time of his death in March, 1870. During twenty-three years of that time he was extensively engaged in the lumber business. His only child, Mr. Nathaniel B. Fugitt, who was born here, still continues a resident of the city.

No. 311 D Street, next to the Fugitt house, was also built by Mr. Fugitt, and was the home of Dr. James Chestney for eleven years up to the time of his death in January, 1869.

Dr. Chestney was born near Columbia, S. C., in 1799, and became a resident of this city in 1847. He was a Presbyterian minister by profession, but was not actively associated with the ministry during his life in this city. During the later years of his life, Dr. Chestney was a clerk in the Land Office, but he was particularly prominent in the most highly educated circles of society. He was thoroughly conversant with seven foreign languages and also an artist in music as well as painting. With such accomplishments it can be easily understood how entertainingly and instructively he could talk in company upon most subjects. An only daughter, Mrs. Josephine Chestney Butler—a niece by marriage of the late Benjamin F. Butler—still resides in this city, and a son, Maj. Theodore Chestney, has been living in Montgomery, Ala., for many years.

On the southwest corner of Louisiana Avenue and John Marshall Place, or Four-and-a-half Street, as it used to be called, was the home of Joseph H. Bradley for more than twenty years prior to 1870. This building was originally known as Masonic Hall and had that name until 1836 or perhaps a little later. The cornerstone was laid in 1826, upon which occasion Mr. W. W. Seaton, of the *National Intelligencer*, delivered the address. Like buildings of that kind in more recent years, the hall was used for amusements and for dances. Dr. Daniel B. Clarke has told me that he remembers attending a ball given there by the National Blues in 1835, and a former resident of Washington, Mr. Charles F. Wood, in a letter to the *Post* about a year ago, speaks of an exhibition of the automatic chess player, which he went there, with his father, to see.

The historical interest of this house rests to a great extent on its record as the home of so distinguished a lawyer and citizen as Mr. Bradley. Proper mention

of him was made by Mr. Charles Bradley in his paper of last year, and his biography is given in library records. The house adjoining the old Bradley house on the south was built by John Purdy in 1842, and was the home of Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren for fifteen years prior to his death in 1870. One of the illustrations accompanying Mr. Madison Davis' paper, included among others in the volume just issued by this Society, gives a view of this house. Originally the entrance was parallel with the front of the house, but in recent years was changed, as now seen in the picture. Mr. Samuel L. Phillips has been the owner of the property for the past twenty years, during which time it has been used for office purposes. A sister of Admiral Dahlgren's, the widow of Matthew P. Read, has had her home in Jackson Place, in this city, for the past eighteen years. The only one of the Admiral's five children (three sons and two daughters) now living is Captain Charles B. Dahlgren, whose home has been in Trenton, N. J., for many years.

The next house west from this, No. 456, was built by the elder Richard Wallach about 1840, but is more generally remembered as the home of his son, formerly Marshal, as well as Mayor, of Washington.

The son was born in Alexandria, Va., April 3, 1816, and was admitted to the bar in this city in 1836. His death occurred here March 4, 1881. Dr. Frederic May occupied this house for a year or two prior to 1852, and Jonah D. Hoover was also an occupant during his time as Marshal of the District from 1852 to 1854. For more than twenty years, like the Bradley house and others to be mentioned, this building has been used for offices. Until very recently a barber shop was installed in the parlor—what was once the parlor, that is—of the Wallach house and a plain everyday kind of beer

saloon was in the basement. The latter-named kind of business also holds forth on the ground floor of the Bradley house. When we think of the very fashionable society that gathered in the parlor of the Wallach house in former years and the office of Mr. Bradley being used for sale of beer, etc., the unpleasant contrast is one we would like to forget.

I should have added as part of the Wallach family history that the widow of the former mayor is still a resident of this city; also her son and daughter. Mrs. Wallach will no doubt be remembered as the daughter of Marshal Brown, the original proprietor of the hotel, now the Metropolitan, which once bore his name.

No. 458 Louisiana Avenue was built by John Withers, a resident of Alexandria, about sixty years ago and was the home for several years prior to his death in 1846, of James Hoban, son of the architect of the White House.

The only son of Mr. Hoban—James Hoban, 3d, I might say—was born in that house, and has been a resident of this city for more than sixty years; as also a member of the bar for thirty-two years.

The father of the late Wm. B. Webb also lived in this house from 1856 to 1864, during most of which period the son had already become a prominent resident of the city. Mr. Webb, the son, was born in Washington, September 25, 1825, and died here March 13, 1896.

He was of New England ancestry on his mother's side, she being of the same family as General Enoch Poor, who won the highest praise from General Washington as leader of the New Hampshire troops. Mr. Webb received his early education at private schools in this city and graduated at Columbia College in 1844. After admission to the District bar in 1847, his promi-

nent career as a lawyer and otherwise was rapid in its rise. The details of that career need no record in this paper, as it has a well-deserved place in biographical works.

No. 460 Louisiana Avenue, now known as the Walker building, was the home of the late Ashton S. H. White from 1847 to 1859 and is now the property of his daughter, Miss M. Grace White.

This house was built by John Withers, also, but was owned by William A. Bradley at the time Mr. White purchased it.

Mr. Ash. White, as his more intimate friends called him, was born in Portsmouth, N. H., September 20, 1819, and died in this city March 26, 1902. Mr. White was a grand-nephew of Governor John Langdon and a grandson of General Elijah Hall, and a descendant also of Peregrine White, who was the first white child born in America.

Mr. White first became a resident of Washington in 1837, when he was appointed by Levi Woodbury, then Secretary of the Treasury, to a clerkship in the Land Office. He was afterwards transferred to the Treasury Department and at the time of his retirement from the Government service had been so employed for over thirty years.

Mr. White's wife, who died in April, 1877, was a daughter of Abraham Bradley, the eldest brother of Joseph H., Henry and Charles Bradley, and her mother was the sister of Dr. James C. Hall. The only child of Mr. and Mrs. White, whom I have already mentioned, is still a resident of this city, and I take pleasure in acknowledging her kind response to my inquiries regarding her family and former home.*

* Since the above was written, she died in this city, December 24, 1903.

Next to Mr. White—No. 462—was where Mr. Wm. A. Bradley lived just prior to and for a few years after the Civil War. He was also properly mentioned in Mr. Charles S. Bradley's interesting paper of last year.

The District Building occupies the site of two houses which date back to 1823 or 1824. One of these was the home of Samuel Stettinius and the other of Thomas Galt. Mr. Galt will be remembered as one of the brothers who continued the jewelry business established by the father, and Mr. Stettinius was one of the justices of the peace mentioned in Judge Bundy's paper of last year, his appointment having been continued for four terms after the original date of it in 1834. I am told by Mr. Samuel H. Walker, a Washingtonian by birth, and a well-known citizen, that the house which Mr. Galt occupied is associated with the visit of General Lafayette to this country, he having been a guest for a few days in the house at that time.

In later years there was a sale of furniture once belonging to this house and Mr. Walker has often refused an offer of one hundred dollars for a piece which he purchased for one dollar.

House No. 468 was the home of Mr. B. F. Middleton and was built for him by the father of the late Alexander R. Shepherd, in 1845. Mr. Middleton also owned the adjoining lot, but this was not built upon until the Real Estate Title Insurance Co. erected in 1881 the building which is now there. It has been used by the Police Department as headquarters for about a year.

Mr. Middleton was born in Maryland in 1806 and came to Washington about 1828. A few years later he formed a partnership in the grocery business with Benjamin Beall, which was continued for nearly thirty

years. He continued to have his home as above for thirteen years and his death occurred in this city in 1863. Two sons and two daughters are the only children out of a large family who are living. The sons, also one of the daughters, are still residents of this city, and to Mr. Alpheus Middleton, the older son, I am very much indebted for information he has given me. Mr. Middleton is still active in the same business as that his father followed, though not numbered with the younger citizens, the firm of Browning & Middleton being well known in the business community.

Where the Gunton building, erected in 1880, now stands there were two small one-story buildings as far back as 1840, one of which was occupied by the late John F. Ennis as a law office. On this site is a building which has been known in recent years as the lawyer's club, some of the upper rooms being used for that purpose. This was originally a private dwelling where the father of the late Walter D. Davidge had his home when he first came to Washington, and the son had his home and law office there for several years after Mr. Davidge's death.

Mr. Walter D. Davidge was born in Baltimore, Md., July 5, 1823, and finished his education at the University of Maryland. His law studies, preparatory to his admission to the bar, were made in this city in the office of Hon. Hugh S. Legare and later, in the office of Clement Coxe, father of the late Hon. Walter S. Coxe. His admission to the bar of the Circuit Court bears date of December 19, 1844, and to the District Supreme Court six years later, at the same time that his fellow student, Judge Coxe, was admitted. His first law partnership was with Thomas S. Semmes, who went south and became Attorney General of the Confederate States. After that time he had as his associate Christopher Ingle, who is still a resident of this city.

Mrs. Davidge, who was the daughter of Dr. Bailey Washington, U.S.N., died in 1885 and Mr. Davidge, November 1, 1901. All of their children, four sons and three daughters, are living, the eldest son, who bears his father's name, being a well-known lawyer in this city.

Next to the Davidge house there are two houses unchanged in appearance, which were built by Edward Swan, in one of which he lived. They date from about 1846. Next to these houses was the building known at different times as the American Theatre, Assembly Rooms and Canterbury Hall. Its history has been quite thoroughly given by Mr. I. F. Mudd in his interesting papers read before this Society.

On the northwest corner of Fifth and D Streets is the former home of Mr. Johnson Hellen, by whom it was built about 1832. Mr. Hellen was a Washingtonian by birth, having been born here in 1800, and his home continued as above until his death, January 21, 1867. His widow retained it as her home until her death in 1875. Mr. Hellen and his family, like those already mentioned, held a high social position in the city, and his career as a representative citizen and a prominent member of the bar entitles him to special mention in the early history of Washington. The Hellen house was used as police headquarters from 1882 to 1893, and since that time as an office building. It is still a part of the family estate, one of the sons, Mr. Joseph Hellen, who lives in New York City, being the owner. Two other sons, Walter and W. F., are residents of this city, and I am indebted to them for information they have given me relative to the family history.

Mr. Hellen's eldest son, Dr. Johnson Hellen, died in this city in 1863, when only thirty-three years of age.

During his short career in the practice of his profession he had acquired a most enviable reputation as a physician and is entitled to more particular mention as having made the first move towards establishing the Providence Hospital, during the last year of his life. It has grown to its present condition from a small building that Dr. Hellen and some others secured on a corner in the immediate neighborhood, southwest from where the present building stands.

The house adjoining the corner of Fifth and D Streets was also built by Mr. Hellen in 1845 or 1846. For several years this was a very select boarding house kept by Mrs. Louisa Duncan, whose son, the Rev. Thomas Duncan, was for three years, prior to 1855, Assistant Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, corner of Third and C Streets. Her daughter, Mary Duncan, who was the widow of Joseph H. Bradley, Jr., died in West Washington, May 30, 1901. Two of Mrs. Bradley's sons are still residents of this city.

Two other daughters of Mrs. Duncan's are still residents of this city, and the youngest, Mrs. Taylor Milton, has lived since her marriage, in 1868, in Berryville, Va.

Mrs. Duncan's son, above mentioned, has been rector of a church in Bedford, Pa., during recent years and since last October has been sojourning in this city.

Among other distinguished persons who lived in this house, when Mrs. Duncan was there, were Senator Toombs of Georgia and Senator Alexander H. Stephens of the same state; also James A. Pearce, a Senator from Maryland; John W. Forney and Major Hickey, who was once Secretary of the Senate. During more recent years this house and one adjoining have been used for offices, the late Richard M. Merrick, the well-known lawyer, having had at one time both his

office and home in the one formerly occupied by Mrs. Duncan. In the latter part of 1831 the father of Mr. W. W. Birth built for Robert Burdine a two-story and attic house west of those above mentioned. This was the home of Daniel Webster during the early years of its history, and while he occupied it a one-story addition was built on the west and the entrance put in the center, so as to have a double house.

After Mr. Webster vacated the house it was leased by Mr. Hellen, who had become the owner, to Mr. Hamilton G. Fant, whose wife was the daughter of Mr. Hellen, and while he occupied it an addition of another story was made to the entire building. As so changed it still remains and bears the name of the Webster building, given it by Mr. Fant when it became an office building, about thirty years ago.

A night or two after the nomination of General Scott, in 1852, there was a Whig ratification meeting held in this city and a large procession was formed which called upon General Scott, who was then residing in the "Chain Building," as it was called, on H Street, near Thirteenth. After congratulatory speeches had been made, to which the general responded, the procession called upon Mr. Webster, though the move was commented on as being in very bad taste. Mr. Webster responded to the cheers of the large crowd, and appeared on the porch of this house. His short speech as reported in the *National Intelligencer* was as follows:

"You, my fellow citizens, with many others have been engaged in the performance of an arduous and protracted duty at Baltimore in making a selection of a fit person to be the candidate for the office of President of the United States. It so happened that my name was used before that assembly and the Convention, I dare say, did its best, exercised its

wisest and soundest discretion and for my part I have no personal feeling in the matter. I remain the same in opinions, in principle and in position that I have always been. You may be assured that there is not one among you who will sleep better to-night than I shall. I tender to you my thanks for this call of friendly regard. I wish you well. Beneath these brilliant stars and in the enjoyment of the beautiful evening I take my leave of you with hearty good wishes for your health and happiness."

Mr. Fant was a native of Virginia, but with the exception of two or three years after the close of the war, when he was in Richmond, Va., he had been a resident of this city for more than forty years at the time of his death in April, 1893. His widow, also his two daughters, are still living, their home being in Baltimore.

A very interesting story connected with the sale of this property to Mr. Hellen has been given me by one of Mr. Hellen's sons, who has already been referred to. In March, 1855, Mr. Burdine suggested to Mr. Hellen that he should purchase the property, Mr. Hellen having already built adjoining it on the east. Mr. Burdine seemed indifferent as to the terms, but Mr. Hellen preferring that he should make a proposition, an agreement was finally concluded between them, and a deed, dated April 2, 1855, was executed upon the following conditions: Mr. Hellen, within five years from above date to pay Mr. Burdine the sum of \$5,000, with interest on the whole amount, payable semi-annually, and also to pay to him during his life an annuity of \$1,000 in quarterly payments. This annuity was afterwards increased to \$1,600. In addition to the above payments Mr. Hellen was to pay, after Mr. Burdine's death, an annuity, during her lifetime, of \$500 to Elizabeth Goddard, alias Rollings, who had been a faithful

servant of Mr. Burdine's for many years; payment of such annuity to be made quarterly, and to commence upon the date of Mr. Burdine's death. Unfortunately for the Hellen heirs, this latter annuity added greatly to the cost of the property, as the beneficiary continued to enjoy excellent health and a comfortable allowance for nearly thirty years. This is a striking illustration of how uncertain the lifetime of the "culled" folks may be and justifies the comparison of them with the "coon," which is often made at the present time.

The building on the northeast corner of Sixth and D Streets, which has been used as the police court since 1878, was originally the Unitarian Church of this city. It was built nearly eighty-three years ago, and from the time of its completion until 1861 was one of the fashionable churches and located, too, in an aristocratic neighborhood. Among other distinguished and eloquent clergymen who have had large audiences there in its earlier history, were Dr. Orville Dewey, a relative of the hero of Manila Bay; Edward Everett Hale, and Samuel Longfellow, brother of the poet. Among other distinguished men who were numbered among the attendants were John Quincy Adams, Daniel Webster, and Henry Clay.

The bell that was once in the belfry of this building but which has been in use by the new church on 14th street since it was completed, is said to have been the first bell used in this city. It is the only bell, too, that tolled here for the execution of John Brown, of Harper's Ferry fame, and because it was the only one that sounded a note of mourning on that occasion, the city government ceased to use it for official announcements.

When it is recalled how many fashionable wedding parties ascended those steps and went down the broad aisle while the organ played the wedding march, and

then realize what a strangely different party makes up the procession from the police court coach to face the judge at the present time, the contrast is quite sufficient to cause a sigh to think of the change that time has brought about.

Diagonally across from the police court (corner of Louisiana avenue, 6th and D streets) was where Walter Lennox lived for many years prior to his death in July, 1874. During some of this time he and Richard Wal-lach had a bachelor housekeeping home there.

Mr. Lennox, who was born in this city August 17, 1817, and who was mayor from 1850 to 1852, was in all respects a representative citizen of Washington. His biography being included with many of his colleagues in library collections need not be given in this paper.

The Lennox house was a plain brick dwelling with a large yard on the east side surrounded by a low stone wall, which was quite well shaded by the large trees in the yard and I can distinctly remember how often that wall served as a resting place for many persons during warm summer days. During recent years buildings for stores and offices have been erected where the yard was formerly, and the house has been changed also for similar purposes, so that no trace of it is left.

On the northwest corner of 6th and D streets there is at present a large office building erected by Dr. W. W. Stewart in 1893. The original site of this building was part of the Davy Burns farm included in the site of the federal city. It was parts of two lots in Square 457 and in the partition between the United States and the original proprietors, Lot 2, now covered by the building above named, was conveyed to Burns. Lot 1 was conveyed by the commissioners in 1802 to Walter S. Chandler, and by Chandler in 1805 to Benjamin Stoddert, Secretary of the Navy under President Thomas Jeffer-

son; and by Stoddert in the same year to the Washington Tontine Company's trustees. In 1815 it was purchased by William Hewitt, register under the old municipal government from 1810 to 1838. In 1817 Mr. Hewitt acquired Lot 2 which had been sold by Burns to Henry Knowles. Mr. Hewitt was still the owner at the time of his death in 1839, and had made his home there for several years up to that time. After the death of his widow the property passed to her children, Mrs. Charles S. Wallach, wife of a well-known lawyer in those days, and Mrs. Raymond W. Burch. During a few years after 1868 Mr. and Mrs. Wallach lived there and it was there Mr. Wallach died. The next owner of this house was Mrs. R. R. Miller, who purchased it in 1873 and it was sold by her to Dr. Stewart in 1890. Prior to 1859 General Walter Jones lived in the house and had his office there.

The first building on this ground was a two-story and attic dwelling, which is supposed to have been erected by Benjamin Stoddert (or possibly by Mr. Chandler) prior to the purchase by the Tontine Company. After Mr. Hewitt's death another story was added and a wing built on the south side, the latter giving an increase of four large rooms besides those in the additional story. About 1849 the house was rented by J. P. Crutchett, one of the most accomplished chefs of that period, and for twenty years was conducted by him as a very select hotel on a small scale. The feature of the house under his management was a most excellent cuisine and first-class service, and its reputation in those respects increased until it was the much-sought-for place by native and foreign epicures alike. The patrons, either for an occasional meal or as boarders, included members of the diplomatic corps and congressional circles and other prominent persons.

Among these were Baron Gerolt and M. Catacazy, Lieut. General Scott, Alexander H. Stephens, Howell Cobb, Henry J. Raymond, the once prominent journalist of New York; Charles Sumner and Daniel W. Voorhees. In the latter part of 1860, when General Scott had his office on 17th street, below the avenue, he was sojourning at this house, but preparations for war beginning soon after that, press of business compelled him to make an office for himself in the wing on the south side above mentioned, and this arrangement continued until late in the spring of 1861. An article printed about the time Dr. Stewart commenced the present building and from which I have gathered the above data, states that under Mr. Crutchett's management the most elaborate dinners of that time were served in this house, and were more highly spoken of than those of any similar place in the city. One of the finest of these was given by Stephens, Cobb and other members of the southern delegation in Congress, complimentary to Stephen A. Douglas, a few days before his marriage to Miss Cutts, upon which occasion Mr. Douglas made one of the most beautiful speeches of his life in bidding farewell to single blessedness.

Next to the southwest corner of 5th and E streets is still standing a dwelling which was built by John Marron of Georgia, who was Third Assistant Postmaster General from 1846 until his death in this city in 1859. It was purchased a few years after completion by Dr. Leonard D. Gale, who was the first occupant, and he had his home there until 1871. Originally there was a large yard adjoining this house on the east, but soon after Dr. Gale became the owner he built a one-story addition on this ground which he used for a library and laboratory. This addition has been used for offices in recent years, and the other part of the house, also, to

some extent, but the appearance of the entire structure has remained unchanged since built.

Dr. Gale was born in Millbury, Mass., July 25, 1800, and died October 22, 1883, at his home in Massachusetts avenue where he had lived since leaving E street. He first became a resident of Washington in 1846 and prior to that time was a professor of chemistry and geology in the University of the City of New York, having been a graduate of Union College and a graduate in medicine also. He came to this city to accept an appointment in the Patent Office, where he was Principal Examiner of Chemistry for eleven years, after which he was a patent attorney and chemist for many years.

While holding the professorship in New York above mentioned Dr. Gale became intimately associated with Professor S. F. B. Morse, who was then in the chair of literature of the arts of design, and had made but little progress with his invention of the recording telegraph. He readily recognized the fact that Professor Gale possessed superior qualifications for his associate and took him into his confidence, exhibiting to him the invention so far as he had been able, unaided, to develop it. Professor Gale being quick to appreciate the ingenuity of the inventor was as quick to see the possible success of the invention. His interest kept pace with that of the inventor and his assistance in further experiments made by Professor Morse was of great importance and value. Professor Gale soon comprehended the difficulty met in perfecting the instrument, and the means of overcoming it suggested by him was to utilize and combine Professor Henry's principles of the electro-magnet, then unknown to Morse, by substituting many pairs of batteries for a single pair and to increase the coil on each arm of the magnet to many hundred turns.

The result was that the current was sent through hundreds of feet of wire, whereas up to that time Professor Morse's instrument failed to do so through more than forty feet of wire. Professor Gale continued his association with Professor Morse while the experimental line was being constructed between this city and Baltimore and after that had charge of the inventor's business in the Patent Office.

Naturally Dr. Gale's professional experience in the sciences and his deep scientific researches, as well as his literary pursuits, made him very prominent among those of similar attainments and interests, and his home was, therefore, one where such society most often gathered. Dr. Gale was one of the trustees of Columbian College during its earlier history, a vestryman of Trinity Episcopal Church and a member of the Philosophical Society. The only child of Dr. Gale's, Mrs. Edward O. Graves, has been a resident of Seattle, Washington, for twelve years, but her son, Mr. Clarence Gale Allen, is still a resident of this city. The widow of Dr. Gale died in this city January 13, 1891.

The second house south of the corner above mentioned, No. 422 5th street, was the home of Josiah Goodrich from 1853 until his death in this city in 1874.

Mr. Goodrich was born in Pittsfield, Mass., in 1805, and became a resident of Washington in 1838. His widow continued her home as above until 1879. She was a native of Washington and died here in March, 1892. Their only surviving daughter, the widow of Dr. W. M. Mew, is still a resident of this city; also two of her brothers, Mr. John Howard Goodrich and Edward P. Goodrich.

The house adjoining the Goodrich house, No. 424, built about the same time, was the home of Dr. Robert J. Powell from 1850 to 1870. Dr. Powell came to

Washington from Richmond County, N. C., where he was born in 1814, and he had been a resident of this city for more than thirty years at the time of his death in August, 1883. He was a graduate in medicine but never engaged in the practice of his profession. During most of his lifetime here he was a clerk in the Post Office Department. His daughter, the widow of Robert G. Howerton, was born in North Carolina, but spent her childhood days in this city, and was married here in 1859. For many years she has lived in Loudoun County, Va. Her son, Mr. Robert H. Martin, is still a resident of Washington.

The two-story and attic house, No. 406 5th street, now used for law offices, was built by Father Matthew, of Gonzaga Hall, about 1840. It was purchased by William J. Stone for his son and namesake in 1857 and the latter with his wife continued their home there for twelve years after the father's death in 1866. William J. Stone, Sr., will be remembered by many, no doubt, as the owner of a large tract of land which extended from Florida avenue to Columbia Road and east from 14th street to where Garfield hospital now stands. This was known as the Stone farm until about forty-three years ago, the dwelling house belonging to it being, I think, the house now owned by Mrs. General Logan. The biography of these two prominent citizens is properly recorded in library collections and requires no mention in this paper. The widow of William J. Stone, Jr., is still a resident of this city, and her son, George B. Stone, has lived for several years in Warrenton, Va. A nephew of Mr. Stone, Mr. William Stone Abert is a well-known member of the District bar and of this Society.

The Stone house and the Goodrich house, like that where Dr. Gale lived, have remained like others already

mentioned, unchanged in appearance outwardly, excepting in the case of the Goodrich house as to the entrance. Originally the steps were parallel with the house but are now at right angles.

The site of the Equity building on the east side of John Marshall Place is where two houses once stood which were built by W. W. G. White in 1852. One of them was the home of Mr. White; and the other that of Mr. Richard S. Coxe for about ten years prior to his death in 1864. Mr. Coxe, who came to Washington from New Jersey in 1820, was a very prominent lawyer of that period, and in his earlier years was a law partner of Horace Binney. His grandson and namesake, Mr. Richard C. Weightman, whose younger days were passed in this city, became a resident here after an interval of many years, in 1884, and since 1889 has been one of the editorial staff of the *Washington Post*.

The older granddaughter of Mr. Coxe, Miss Louisa S. Weightman, has lived here the greater portion of her life. Her sister, Mrs. Frankland Jannus, who died here March 8, of this year, had also lived here most of the time since her childhood days.

A few words of tribute to the memory of this lady, who was so closely related to two distinguished residents of Washington in former years, seem quite appropriate in the pages of this paper.

Emmeline Carlisle Weightman, whose paternal grandfather, General Roger C. Weightman, was mayor of Washington from 1824 to 1826, was born in this city and had retained since her early childhood the sincere friendship of all those who knew her then and of those who knew her in later years. As a daughter and sister her love and devotion were the beautiful traits of her character, and these were more fully developed during the later years of her life as a wife and mother.

Although having trials for several years that were a severe test of her loyalty as a wife, she remained steadfast and hopeful to the last, and during a painful illness of nearly two years she manifested a spirit of patience and cheerfulness far above the average, mingled always with thoughts of her two sons and their future. However simple the slab may be that marks her last resting place, her exemplary life will be a bright remembrance for those she loved and by whom she was loved in return.

Mr. White, who built these houses, and his brother, James L. White, were born in Virginia; the former in 1800 and the latter in 1813. The older brother came to this city when about twenty years of age and the younger a few years later. In 1840 they established themselves in the dry goods business on Pennsylvania avenue, between 6th and 7th, which partnership continued for twenty years. The younger brother afterwards was in the same business for himself. Mr. W. W. G. White died in Philadelphia in 1878, where he had lived for several years. The brother is still a resident of Washington, but at his advanced age, a bronchial trouble during the last year or two has made him quite feeble.

Adjoining the Equity Building on the south is a large brownstone front dwelling, that was built by John Purdy in 1867. Senator John T. Morgan of Alabama became the owner of it in 1887, since which time it has been his home.

On the northwest corner of C street and John Marshall Place there is at present a house built by W. S. Drummond in 1830, which is particularly noticeable as being unchanged during all these years. During the first few years after being completed it was occupied by Dr. Thomas Sewall, whose niece, Miss Webster, became

the wife of Dr. Harvey Lindsly. Dr. Sewall was born in Massachusetts in 1786 and was a graduate of Harvard University. He died in this city in 1845. The first lecture in the Medical Department of Columbian College was delivered by Dr. Sewall, and during his residence here he was one of the most prominent and popular physicians of the city. At the time Reverend Father Matthew, the Apostle of Temperance, was advocating that cause so zealously, he was aided very materially by plates which Dr. Sewall prepared, showing the effects of liquor on the stomach and the condition of the stomach when affected by excessive drinking.

The first house on the west side of 4½ street, now John Marshall Place, north of Pennsylvania avenue, was the home of Dr. George M. Dove for nearly fifteen years prior to his death, January 30, 1874. Dr. Dove was born in this city October 5, 1817, and graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1839. He commenced the practice of his profession soon after that in this city and was one of the prominent physicians here for thirty-five years, in his general practice as well as otherwise. Among other positions he held was that of physician to the almshouse; secretary, and afterwards president, of the board of health; professor in Columbian College; and one of the staff at Providence Hospital. Dr. Dove's widow, also his two daughters, with their grown children, are still residents of this city. One of the daughters is the widow of Dr. Seth Jewett Todd, the second son of William B. Todd, who was mentioned among others in the history of C street families.

What has been known until quite recently as the Cutler house, No. 222 Third street, northwest, near Pennsylvania avenue, was built by Sears & Co. of Alex-

andria, Va., in 1834, for John Withers, a wealthy resident of that city at that time, and by him it was bequeathed to Columbian College. It is a large double house, built of brick, four stories in height, with a large back building and has undergone no change since first built. Its history has been that of a large boarding house for more than sixty years. Mrs. Hewitt, widow of William Hewitt, who has been mentioned above in connection with another house, was the first to have the management of it. In 1846 Isaac Beers became the proprietor, and during the time he had it, it was known as the Temperance hotel, he having had a hotel with that name on Pennsylvania avenue, near 3rd street. His daughter, Miss Virginia Beers, was married in December, 1852, while her father still had this house, to William Wallace Kirby, son of Samuel Kirby, who was well known for many years as a manufacturer of high-class cabinet furniture, and also as an undertaker. The son, who was born in this city May 21, 1827, held the position of deputy marshal under Ward Lamon in 1861, and under his successors, with the exception of short intervals, until the present marshal was appointed. He and his wife are still residents here and are enjoying the best of health.*

After Mr. Beers gave up this house in 1853, Mrs. Taylor, the mother of Mrs. J. W. Colley, had the management of it for sixteen years, when Mrs. Colley assumed the management and continued there until 1873. Mrs. Colley, also her husband, are still living in this city. The latter will be remembered as having in former years a large dry goods business here and as a representative member of the business community.

During the years that Mrs. Colley and her mother had the management of this house it was an unusually

* Mrs. Kirby died in this city, November 26, 1903.

popular sojourning place for the best class of people.

The two houses adjoining this house, Nos. 224 and 226, were built in 1835 by F. X. Kennedy, a hardware merchant, whose place of business was on Pennsylvania avenue near 11th street. He lived in No. 224 for several years, and sold both houses to Rear Admiral L. M. Powell, U. S. N., who lived for a few years in No. 226.

The other one was sold by him to Mr. Charles B. Maury, who had his home there from 1856 to 1861.

Mr. Maury, a brother of former Mayor John W. Maury, was born in Caroline County, Va., November 29, 1822, and came to Washington fifteen years later. From that time until 1848 he was a clerk in his brother's office. He then formed a partnership with Hudson Taylor in the book and stationery business on Pennsylvania avenue, between 9th and 10th, which continued until May, 1861, when Mr. Maury went south.

He returned to this city in 1873 and in the following year was selected treasurer of the Arlington Fire Insurance Company, of which company he is now the assistant secretary, the position of treasurer having been abolished in 1898. I take pleasure in referring to several pleasant chats I have had with Mr. Maury and in acknowledging the kind interest he has manifested in giving me data for this paper and others which have preceded it.

During the last thirty years this house has been a hotel for the Indians from different tribes when visiting here. The proprietor during that time has been Mr. Ben. Beveridge, who has been a resident of Washington for more than fifty years. He was active as a member of the Perseverance Hose Company and the States Hose Company in the days of the volunteer fire department, and judging from his promising appear-

ance physically when I called on him a few months ago, I am inclined to think that sort of experience in all kinds of weather failed to undermine his constitution in the slightest degree.

On the opposite side of 3d street, No. 219, is the former home of Mr. W. W. Birth, which was built by his father in 1831 and it was there the latter died in 1844. Mr. Birth and his mother continued to have their home there until 1864 and after that his brother's family lived there for thirty-three years. In the settlement of the estate it was sold to Smith Petitt, whose widow is now the occupant.

During the time this house was the home of the Birth family there were members of Congress and other distinguished persons who had rooms there, and Mr. Birth tells me that Jonathan Cilley, of Maine, was sojourning there 1838 at the time he fought a duel with Representative Graves of Kentucky.

THE FIRST MASTER OF CEREMONIES OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

By JOHN H. McCORMICK, M.D.

(Read before the Society May 11, 1903.)

The makers of history are not always those known to fame, but are sometimes comparatively obscure persons, who, from one cause or another, soon pass from the public gaze, if indeed they ever enjoyed it. Perhaps nowhere else, as in Washington, are there so many examples of men and women whose quiet and unostentatious influence has shaped public events, yet the people themselves remain unknown save to a small circle of friends and acquaintances and their actions lie buried in the public archives and in the memory of their friends.

Of such a one this paper will speak, a man lost to fame save for a single deed. One who, by his silent yet active influence at a critical period in our national history, helped to avert many serious diplomatic complications, and by his knowledge of European court life succeeded in unravelling many tangled skeins in official circles. Such a man was Jean Pierre Sioussat, the First Master of Ceremonies of the White House.

Considered from a purely historical standpoint, it is always of some distinction to have been the first in any walk of life, whether the position be one of high or low degree. To understand, therefore, the part played by this man in public affairs, it will be necessary to consider the time in which he lived and the conditions by which he was surrounded.

It was a time which separated the gold from the dross and the refining process brought to the surface many who had been hitherto unknown and unheeded, while many others were swept from their high and apparently secure pedestals to be lost or buried in the débris of passing events. Some of these characters have a place upon the pages of history, others live only in the memories of those who cherished their worth.

It may be interesting to recall the fact that almost from the dawn of our nation's independence our national history was interwoven with the personality and the actions of those who had been associated with historic scenes and characters of France. Certainly every one of our Presidents from Washington to Monroe had felt this influence. By a curious coincidence this thread began with the first coming of Lafayette to assist in fighting for our independence, and ended only when on September 7, 1825, America's greatest foreign friend, the same Lafayette, now grown old with years, bade farewell to President Monroe at the White House and slowly sailed down the Potomac River. Amid the tolling of the bells of the passing craft, sounding as a requiem to the survivor, with eyes filled with tears, he gazed for the last time upon the final resting place of his comrade in arms at Mount Vernon. Who can tell of the emotions which filled the breast of this gentle, yet heroic soul as his ship glided slowly onward, until the evening shadows encompassed him round about and in person to America he was forever lost.

The thread of France interwoven with the Madison administration was in the person of Jean Pierre Sious-sat, who played an important part in the making of Mrs. Madison's successful régime in the White House one long to be remembered.

Not the least vexing of the many vexatious questions which obtruded themselves to the confounding of our early statesmen was that of precedence and procedure in official and social functions. Like Banquo's ghost it would not down, but returned again and again, like that unlaied spirit, to haunt them and to taunt them.

Few of us realize the great influence this question had in determining not only the policy many times of this government but, indeed, of the very form of the new republic itself. Space does not admit of a discussion of this question more than to say that the contention for supremacy between the ultra-royalists and the ultra-democrats resulted, as usual, in a compromise.

The first administration, presided over by Washington, by nature and by education an aristocrat, was dignified and conservative, partaking very largely of the social customs of the exclusive circles in which the President moved. A touch of the old world courts was added by the versatile, brilliant, forceful genius of Hamilton, who of all men was the only one who could influence Washington by his mere personality; when to this he added the weight of his persuasive argument, he was well-nigh irresistible. So Hamilton largely dominated the first administration and was largely responsible for many of the customs instituted in official life.

Adams, the personification of dignity and courtesy, had unconsciously become more formal and conventional by his residence abroad. The atmosphere of the staid, old Philadelphia society, where first as Vice-President, and afterwards as Chief Executive, he passed almost the whole of his official life, was well suited to his tastes and his ideals. His administration was in many respects a social replica of that of his predecessor. The few months of his stay in Washington, in an unfinished executive mansion, or President's Palace,

as it was then derisively called, were too short and filled with too much bitterness to admit of much in the way of official functions.

Jefferson ruthlessly tore away all formality in official life and revelled in what he called "democratic simplicity." Indeed, to Jefferson are we indebted for much of the lightness of esteem with which we for many years were held by foreign nations. His lack of social etiquette, studied and purposed on his part, led him into many difficulties with our accredited diplomats. The slights, impositions, indignities and even insults heaped upon us were allowed to pass without more than a feeble protest, if as much, while our enemies laughed openly at our supineness and puerility. It was, however, the sleeping giant, who only turned restlessly in his slumbers at the prods of his tormenters. The time was to come when all the world became aware that the lethargy was at an end, and that when "Your Uncle Samuel" stretched forth his ponderous arm, all the world bowed before his uplifted finger, and exclaimed "Oh! Excuse me" and gracefully retired.

So it was to Madison, poor man, already weighted down with the fruits of his predecessor's mistakes, to whom fell the task of establishing the official social régime that in most respects was to persist to this day. Like the wise man he was, he turned this part of his task over to his wife, the charming Dolly Madison.

Unlike those who preceded her in this office, for the mistress of the White House is, after a manner, as much of an official as her husband, Mrs. Madison had not the advantages of foreign court life.

By nature sociable and affable, large-hearted and hospitable, she undertook the task with cheerfulness, to which was added a determination to relieve her overburdened husband of a duty exceedingly distasteful to

him. She bent her wonderful energy to the work with consummate skill and tact. How well she succeeded is evidenced by the fact that, of the wives of all the Presidents, she was the only one who exercised as much social sway in official life after her retirement from the White House as she did before. Her house in Washington was designated the "little White House," and visitors of note, after leaving the President, invariably called to pay their respects to Mrs. Madison.

Without training in court etiquette, she started handicapped at a critical period of our national history, when a contretemps in precedence or procedure might mean an immediate declaration of war. To supply this lack on her part, she determined to have a master of ceremonies to assist her in her arduous and intricate social duties. She found such a one in the person of Jean Pierre Sioussat, a Frenchman who had in his youth seen much of court life in Paris. Thus was instituted the office of Master of Ceremonies at the White House, one of those official fictions so common in Washington, for while no such office did or could officially exist, as a matter of fact such an official was much in evidence. It is the same to-day.

This young man, for at the time of Mrs. Madison's entrance into the White House he lacked six months of being twenty-eight, had had a most romantic and adventurous career.

As shown by the parish register, he was born in the parish of St. Paul, Paris, September 22, 1781. Of his childhood nothing is known until the age of twelve, at which time occurred the "Reign of Terror." Living within a stone's throw of the Rue St. Antoine, the direct route from the Tuilleries to the Bastille, and midway between the two, he was compelled to witness many of the horrors of that inhuman pandemonium.

He often told, in a graphic manner, of the exciting scenes witnessed by himself during that turbulent period. Of how on January 21, 1793, his father raised him above the crowd to witness the beheading of King Louis XVI., and a few months later the guillotining of Marie Antoinette. About this time, his parents having died, he together with his three sisters became wards of the Church of Rome. The three girls were placed in a convent, two of them there to remain separated from the world as members of the communion, while his youngest sister, Aimée, afterwards became the companion of a wealthy French lady. Young Jean was designed by the Church authorities to become a priest, and in the course of his ecclesiastical studies he obtained a most excellent education. In after life he frequently would sing entire masses, taking up every part in turn, as lullabies to his children. Born at the close of the American Revolution and nurtured in the turbulent period of the Reign of Terror, the adventurous spirit of the boy burst asunder the narrow boundaries of his environment, and at the age of seventeen, without the knowledge or consent of his superiors, he exchanged the cassock and the cloister for the freedom and adventure of a sailor's life. He embarked first in the merchant service, during which time he sailed several times around the world. He then embarked in the French navy, but not fancying this, he determined at the first favorable opportunity to quit the service. Accordingly in 1804, when on the French frigate which was lying in New York harbor under waiting orders to convey Jerome Bonaparte and his bride, Miss Patterson, of Baltimore, to the Continent, he slipped over the side of the vessel and swam to the shore. Arriving in New York unknown, a stranger in a strange land, without means, and unable to speak the language of the

country, the prospect seemed indeed gloomy and uninviting. Nothing daunted, however, he made his way to the city of Washington, and there by some means obtained the favor of the British minister, who invited him to become one of his official family. In what capacity, or how long he stayed, it is impossible to say, but that his service there must have been agreeable and satisfactory was evident, because notwithstanding the fact that Minister Merry had quarreled with President Jefferson on account of his official preference for Mrs. Madison, according her precedence over Minister Merry's wife, we find the young Frenchman, Jean Pierre Sioussat, a frequent visitor at the White House. Soon after the elevation of Mr. Madison to the Presidency, we find Jean Sioussat a member of the official staff at the White House. Beginning as doorkeeper, he soon relinquished this to become the confidential agent of Mrs. Madison in executing the multiplicity of duties which this charming hostess required under the new régime which she instituted at the White House.

During the greater part of Mrs. Madison's occupancy of the White House he acted as Master of Ceremonies, his knowledge of French customs being of unusual value in determining many minor points of procedure in official functions.

The peculiar conditions influencing the social side of the White House at that day have never been fully recognized nor appreciated. Mrs. Madison had to hew her way through prejudice, intrigue and violent opposition, both foreign and domestic. The war cloud looming in the distance only complicated matters and made the task more difficult. In her dilemma she turned to Jean Pierre Sioussat, who had by his charming personality and suave manner captivated all who came in contact with him. Tall and stately, of digni-

fied bearing, he was a host in himself; tactful, resourceful and omnipresent, a good scholar, a linguist of no mean order, his French accent but lending charm to his conversation, he was never at a loss for a suggestion. With him, in the conception of a plan, was it half done, so minute and orderly were the details worked out.

Mrs. Madison so learned to depend upon him that before long he took almost entire charge of her personal affairs, a relationship that existed many years after her departure from the White House, and terminated only with her death. Many letters to Mr. Sioussat, still in the hands of his descendants, show the intimate friendship existing between them.

His knowledge of French customs stood him in good stead, being of unusual value in determining many minor points of procedure in official functions. The issuance of invitations, the arrangement of the order of precedence, the arrangement of State dinners, the provision for the reception of guests, the looking after the furniture and decorations, were some of the manifold duties he performed.

It must be remembered that the city of Washington at that time was but little more than a straggling village and that it was impossible to provide many of the needed things from the city shops.

Mrs. Madison herself was the center around which revolved the society of the day, both official and unofficial. Her personality pervaded the whole gathering. This has been attested by no less a personage than Washington Irving, who attended one of Mrs. Madison's levees in 1811. He says:

"I emerged from dirt and darkness into the blazing and splendor of Mrs. Madison's drawing room. Here I was most

graciously received; found a crowded collection of great and little men, of ugly old women and beautiful young ones, and in ten minutes was hand in glove with half of the people of the assemblage. Mrs. Madison is a fine portly buxom dame, who has a smile and a pleasant word for everybody. Her sister, Mrs. Cutts, and Mrs. Washington are like the two merry wives of Windsor; but as to Jemey Madison, ah, poor Jemey—he is but a withered little apple John."

For the first time the society of the White House became natural, delightful and hospitable. Everyone was made to feel at home, and here friend and foe could meet upon a common ground—a marked contrast to the stiffness and formality of Washington and Adams and the reckless improvident methods of Jefferson. Dinner parties and receptions occurred weekly, and in addition the President held levees, at which times the Master of Ceremonies assisted in directing the movements of the guests.

The "dove parties," so famous in Mrs. Madison's administration of the social side of the White House, were inaugurated with a view to bringing the ladies of the Cabinet into a more real friendship with one another than the official functions could possibly give. Of course, but fragments of the details of these social features of Mrs. Madison's time remain; nevertheless enough has been preserved to show her methods.

Without in the least suspecting, much less designing, this marvelous woman was the power behind the throne. What the famous women of France, England, Austria and other Continental countries failed to accomplish by intrigue, Mrs. Madison unwittingly performed by her sincerity, her straightforwardness and earnest desire to please every one. About the White House surged the contending forces bent upon the undoing of President Madison, either by forcing his hand

or involving him in still greater difficulties and complications. The consummate skill of Mrs. Madison repressed the one element and unknowingly destroyed the other. Without dabbling in politics, in the obnoxious sense of the word, without pretense or intrigue, by her diplomatic manner and personal charm, she so impressed everyone with whom she came in contact, that those who came to assail her husband remained to defend him.

In all her movements and endeavors she was ably seconded by Jean Sioussat. In her hour of danger, he remained her firm reliance; in her hour of despair, he was her comforter and ever-present help in time of trouble.

The contrast between the scene as described by Irving and that of a similar event, one of the weekly drawing rooms of President Monroe, is indeed great and shows the lack of a guiding hand. The *National Intelligencer*, a daily paper published at the time, thus describes the latter:

"The Secretaries, Senators, Foreign Ministers, Consuls, Auditors, Accountants, Officers of the Army and Navy of every grade, Farmers, Merchants, Parsons, Priests, Lawyers, Judges, Auctioneers, and Nothingarians, all with their wives and some with their gawky offsprings, crowd to the President's every Wednesday evening; some in shoes, most in boots, and many in slippers; some snuffing, others chewing and many longing for their cigars and whiskey-punches left at home; some with powdered heads, others frizzled and oiled, with some whose head a comb had never touched, half hid by dirty collars, reaching far above their heads, as stiff as paste-board."

By the strange caprice of fortune the young Frenchman was destined to be surrounded by the activities

of war, for in his adopted country he was in the center of the excitement growing out of the second war with Great Britain. On the 24th of August, 1814, the British under General Ross and Admiral Cockburn entered the City of Washington for the purpose of capturing the President and his Cabinet and sacking the capital city. Advices of their approach having been received by the President in time, he together with his Cabinet, fled from the city to Brookville, Montgomery county, Md., leaving Mrs. Madison to make her way into Virginia. It was here that the wonderful activity of Jean Sioussat manifested itself. He took entire charge of the preparations of Mrs. Madison for her hasty journey, apparently forgetting nothing. The State papers placed in boxes and with the silver plate and such other portable valuables as could be gotten together, were packed in a carriage and started for a place of safety. Among the things saved was Stuart's famous picture of Washington. The time was so short that it was impossible to remove the picture from its frame as desired by Mrs. Madison, who had given directions to her servants to that effect, so Mr. Sioussat coming into the room, witnessing their ineffectual efforts, cut the canvass with his penknife, removing it from the frame without injury. A number of legends have been recorded about the saving of this picture, but this is authentic, as will be shown by the following quotation taken from the records of the Oldest Inhabitants Association:

"Mr. Nicholas Callan, related an incident of the fire of 1814. When Mrs. President Madison found it unsafe to remain longer at the White-House, on account of the presence of the British troops, she left it in charge of the coachman and Jean Sioussat. To the latter she gave instructions to save the picture of Washington. He did so by cutting it from the

frame with his penknife, and it now adorns the same room in the Executive Mansion."

Mrs. Madison herself stated that this was the method of the preservation of the picture. Mr. Sioussat often told the story to his children and his grandchildren, and it was corroborated by the old colored coachman, Paul Jennings, who held the ladder while Mr. Sioussat cut the picture from the frame. He gave the picture to Messrs. Barker and Depeyster, who took it to a place of safety. After seeing everything safe he locked the doors and took the keys to the Russian Minister's, after which he and his family went to the French Minister's for protection. The French Minister then lived on I Street, between Sixteenth Street and Connecticut Avenue, in a house owned by Col. Bombas.

A number of Mr. Sioussat's descendants are now living, who have heard the story in all its details, and its confirmation from the lips of Mrs. Madison, during visits from her to Mr. Sioussat. She told the story to the children with a charm and grace as only she could do. In addition, the colored coachman, Paul Jennings, often told them the story which agrees in all essential details with the one cited before. A few quotations from Mrs. Madison's correspondence sets at rest any contention on the subject.

It will be recalled that the President and his Cabinet joined General Winder, at Bladensburg, to get nearer the scene of the conflict between our troops and those of the enemy. In a letter written to her sister, Tuesday, August 23, 1814, after citing the movements of the President and his desire that she care for the Cabinet papers, public and private, she says:

"I am accordingly ready; I have pressed as many cabinet papers into trunks as to fill our carriage; our private property

must be sacrificed as it is impossible to procure wagons for its transportation."

Mr. Sioussat was busy superintending these preparations and at the same time directing the movements of the servants, who had become demoralized from fear at the rumors of the approach of the enemy. His excitable French temperament and the scenes of bloodshed and carnage he had witnessed in his own land, filled him with a fiery zeal, and led him to propose the annihilation of the British by blowing them up with gunpowder, as was done in Paris a few years before, during the Reign of Terror. To this, of course, Mrs. Madison objected. Disappointed that he could not do this, he set about devising means for Mrs. Madison's hasty flight, for already the advance guard of the enemy were rapidly closing in upon the fated city. Such was the state of affairs at the close of Tuesday, the 23d.

On the following day at three o'clock she writes:

"At this late hour a wagon has been procured and I have filled it with plate and the most valuable portable articles belonging to the house. Whether it will reach its destination, the Bank of Maryland, or fall into the hands of British soldiery events must determine. Our friend Mr. Carroll has come to hasten my departure and in a very bad humor with me because I insist on waiting until the large picture of General Washington is secured, and it requires to be unscrewed from the wall. This process was found too tedious for these perilous moments. I have ordered the frame to be broken and the canvas to be taken out."

It was at this point that Mr. Sioussat entered the room, having returned from despatching the wagon above referred to to the Bank of Maryland. The facts

of the saving of the picture as related by Mr. Sioussat, corroborated by the colored man Paul Jennings, the coachman, hereafter referred to as one of the servants instructed to remove it, as will appear in her letter dated February 11, 1848, are as follows: The colored man Paul and another servant were attempting to unfasten the frame from the wall. This proving too slow, Mrs. Madison ordered the frame to be broken. Just as the first blow was struck Mr. Sioussat entered the room, and, observing the shiver running through the canvas, feared these repeated attacks would damage the painting. He therefore ordered Paul to desist, explained his plan to Mrs. Madison, and receiving her approval, ascended the ladder, held firmly in place by the servants, and with his pocket knife cut the canvas close to the frame.

In her letter Mrs. Madison tells the sequel:

"It is done, and the precious portrait placed in the hands of two gentlemen from New York for safe keeping! On handing the canvas to the gentlemen in question, Messrs. Barker & Depeyster, Mr. Sioussat cautioned them against rolling it up, saying that it would destroy the portrait. He was moved to do this because Mr. Barker started to roll it up for greater convenience for carrying."

The picture was carried to a place of safety and afterwards restored to Mrs. Madison, as the following letter shows:

"WASHINGTON February 11th, 1848—

"*Dear Sir:*—

"I did not receive your favor containing the newspapers and therefore is my impatience to assure you of my gratitude for the interest you take in my defence in the little narrative of the picture rescue. You will see by the enclosed what was said at the time. The impression that Mr. Carroll saved Stuart's portrait of Washington is erroneous. The paper

which was to accompany your letter has not reached me, but I have heard that his family believed he rescued it. On the contrary Mr. Carroll had left me to join Mr. Madison, when I directed my servants in what manner to remove it from the walls, remaining with them until it was done.

"I saw Mr. Barker and yourself (the two gentlemen alluded to) passing and accepted your offer to assist me in any way, by inviting you to help me to preserve this portrait, which you kindly carried between you, to the humble but safe roof which sheltered it a while. I acted thus because of my respect for General Washington—not that I desired to gain laurels; but, should there be a merit in remaining an hour in danger of liberty to save the likeness of anything the merit in this case belongs to me. Accept my respect and best wishes.

"D. P. MADISON."

"to ROBERT G. L. DEPEYSTER."

The following extract from "A Colored Man's Reminiscence of James Madison," by Paul Jennings, referred to as taking part in the picture episode confirms what has been said as to the part taken by Jean Sious-sat. This, together with other evidence submitted, should set at rest all controversy as to whom the honor should be given:

"It has often been stated in print that when Mrs. Madison escaped from the White House she cut out from the frame the large portrait of Washington (now in one of the parlors there) and carried it off. This is totally false. She had no time for doing it. It would have required a ladder to get it down. All she carried off was the silver in her reticule as the British were thought to be but a few squares off, and were expected every moment. John Suse, a Frenchman, then door-keeper, and still living, and Magraw the President's gardner took it down and sent it off on a wagon with some large silver urns and such other valuables as could be hastily got together.

"When the British did arrive they ate up the very dinner and drank the wines that I had prepared for the President's party."

The last paragraph disposes of another pleasing fiction often told of that day's proceeding. It has long been a puzzle to those who admired the charming Dolly Madison to reconcile this seeming blot upon her devotion to her country's cause. That she could be so heartless as to give a dinner party to her friends, as has so often been related, while her husband, home and country were in imminent danger from a foreign foe, caused her to be regarded by the reader of the legend as a modern female Nero. The truth was that Paul Jennings had prepared an ordinary meal for the refreshment of the President and such as accompanied him from the field that no time might be lost should they be compelled to leave the city and fly for safety into Virginia.

After the return of Mr. Madison to Washington, the President's home was temporarily located in the Octagon House at the northeast corner of Eighteenth Street and New York Avenue, then owned by Col. John Tayloe, the proprietor of Middlebrook House on Braddock road, one of the stopping places of President Adams on his initial journey to Washington. In this house was signed the treaty of Ghent by which peace was declared between Great Britain and the United States, a peace which has not been seriously disturbed to this day. The building is now owned and occupied by the Institute of American Architects. After using this building about a year the President removed to the "Six Buildings" at the corner of Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. All of these structures are still standing and occupied.

The latter continued to be the Executive Mansion throughout the remainder of Madison's administration. The White House, in the meantime, was being prepared for the reception of his successor, Mr. Monroe.

After the departure of Jean Sioussat from the White House, with the advent of President Monroe, the office of Master of Ceremonies ceased to exist as such until its revival by President Grant. And it may be of interest briefly to compare the office as it was during the occupancy of Jean Sioussat and as it is to-day.

General Grant, like Madison, was unfitted for the duties of host. He was cast in a sterner mould.

Life on the battlefield and in the camp, with all their attendant responsibilities and hardships, had not tended to soften or unbend an already taciturn nature and fit him for the social duties of the drawing room.

Realizing this, he devised a plan to revive the office of Master of Ceremonies. Of course such an office had no official existence, nor could our democratic form of government admit of such.

During the Civil War General Babcock had been closely associated with General Grant and it was the desire of the latter, when he became President, to have General Babcock near him at Washington. When the army had returned to a peace basis, General Babcock, like many other officers, returned to his former rank in the regular organization. That rank in his case was that of a major, but the pay was inadequate to maintain him in Washington, so President Grant had Congress pass a law fixing the rank of the Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds, as that of a colonel of engineers. General Babcock was then ordered to that post and made military aide to the President, which is in fact the official designation of him who is in reality the Master of Ceremonies at the White House.

The occupant of this office since that time has always been an officer in the Engineer Corps of the United States Army, and being a graduate of West Point is by education and training fully equipped for the ardu-

ous yet pleasant duty. A brief survey of his duties will give some idea of the magnitude of the task now imposed upon this officer.

The late incumbent, Col. Theodore A. Bingham, was without question the best equipped of all his predecessors for this multisided office, because of unusual advantages enjoyed by him. Chief among these is the fact that the unusual prominence of the United States in the last few years, as a diplomatic factor in the world's affairs, just prior to and subsequent to the war with Spain, has caused many functions to take place at the White House which have heretofore taken place in Europe. The many distinguished foreign visitors, and the necessity for their entertainment, by the President; also the now settled custom of the President visiting various parts of the country, all serve to bring the Master of Ceremonies into greater prominence, and entail on him new duties and afford a wider scope for the exercise of this office. To the training of a soldier in the case of Col. Bingham was added the advantages and polish of foreign diplomatic services, a post not enjoyed by any of his predecessors except Jean Sious-sat. For seven years, first as military attaché to the United States Embassy at Berlin, and afterwards at Rome, the two most formal of all European courts, he learned all the customs of court and diplomatic circles. Unlike many placed in such a position, Col. Bingham was a busy man, not a mere figure head. When ordered to the post of Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds, by President McKinley, and consequently Master of Ceremonies of the White House, he was thoroughly equipped for the arduous duty.


Having become acquainted at first hand with the criticisms of our neighbors abroad, and realizing our own deficiencies, he was prepared to overcome the one and to supply the other.

In addition to the care of the public buildings in the city of Washington, so far as the War Department has jurisdiction over them, and of all the city parks, statues and public grounds, this officer must also look after the thousand and one details of the White House. As military aide to the President, he must be present and assist at all diplomatic and other formal presentations. For instance, when a new ambassador is to be presented to the President, the Master of Ceremonies goes to the residence of the diplomat in question, in the President's carriage, and escorts him to the White House, and formally presents him to the President. The ambassador in a short speech presents his credentials, stating that his gracious majesty expresses his gratification at the felicitous relations existing between the two countries, and hopes that nothing may arise to disturb this feeling of amity.

The President, in accepting the credentials, welcomes the ambassador, and states that so far as the United States is concerned nothing shall disturb this friendship, if in our power to prevent. And the audience is over.

When a state dinner is to be given, the Master of Ceremonies sees that the invitations are properly prepared and sent out, then a diagram of the table is made with each person's name arranged in the order of his official precedence. These are filed away so that any question arising as to precedence can be settled by reference to the diagram.

In addition to the state and diplomatic dinners and receptions are the receptions to the members of Congress, to the Army and Navy, and the public receptions. At all of these functions the Master of Ceremonies has to plan the details and see that they are properly executed. He introduces all the guests to the President



and his receiving party, calling each one by name. In this particular the office of Master of Ceremonies differs now from that of the time of Jean Sioussat. The early administrations were always strongly flavored with the personnel of the Army. Indeed, nearly all officials of importance, in the new government, and most of the men of influence, were former officers in our army of the Revolution.

It was natural, therefore, that on state occasions some of the formality of the army should obtain in these official functions. One of the members of the military staff of the President was always selected to introduce state visitors.

Jean Sioussat, not being an officer in our military service, was, of course, not called upon for this function. But his services were nevertheless required many times to act as interpreter for foreigners who could not understand English.

Nowadays, however, the Master of Ceremonies must not only perform the official duties required of Jean Sioussat, but he must also introduce all official visitors to the President and perform a like service at all receptions.

But few men are fitted to perform this office. It needs but a moment's reflection to see that a man must be not only a fine linguist, but a ready one as well. He must know at an instant's glance the name and rank of every visitor, and must pronounce the same correctly, so that it does not jar on the visitor's ear. From English to French, from German to Italian or Russian, must he turn his brain and tongue with lightning-like rapidity.


With a White House entirely too small in size, and inadequate in its arrangements to accommodate the vast number of guests, the task becomes manifoldly more

difficult and perplexing. From the uncrowded conditions of the days of Jean Sioussat, when the city was a village and the entire country but a few millions of people, and a trip to the Capital City was no small undertaking, to a nation of over seventy millions, with rapid transit, it is not difficult to see the gigantic proposition that the Master of Ceremonies of to-day has to face. Nevertheless, so wonderfully systematized and so well is the work planned that it proceeds without a hitch.

So multitudinous are the duties, so great the amount of detail required for its prosecution that "the more and more the wonder grows that one small head could contain all it knows."

But to return to our text. At the close of Mr. Madison's administration he gave Mr. Sioussat a position in the old United States Bank, with which institution he remained until it closed its doors, by virtue of the action of President Jackson. Together with the cashier, Richard Smith, he went to the old bank of the Metropolis, the predecessor of the present National Metropolitan Bank, with which institution he remained until 1843, when he retired on account of age, and was succeeded by his son Frederick. Mr. Sioussat was married three times and had twelve children, but one of whom survives. His second wife, Charlotte Julia DeGraffe, the granddaughter of Jacobus DeGraffe, a Swedish nobleman, was a prominent member of Saint John's Episcopal Church, at the corner of Sixteenth and H Streets, northwest. It was in 1819 that she became connected with this church, and for five successive generations the same pew has been occupied without intermission. Of the grandchildren a number still live in Washington, and are more or less well known.

The original purpose of the writer of this paper was simply to exhibit to the Society an original picture of



the White House in 1811, together with several other objects of historic interest bearing upon the same subject.

Experts who have devoted considerable time to the study of this subject declare this picture to be the one known to be missing in the chain of evolution of the White House from its beginning to the present time, and by thus filling the heretofore existing hiatus the series is now complete.

So far as known it is the only one in existence. That it is genuine there can be no question, first because it corresponds in every detail, proving other drawings incorrect; second, it has been in the possession of Mr. Sioussat's family continuously since 1811, the date of its execution.

A study of the picture by Col. Theo. A. Bingham, late Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds, who is without question the most competent authority on the construction of the White House, and by his assistant, Mr. Fred D. Owen, and others, revealed so many interesting facts coupled with the romantic history of the preserver of the picture in whose family, as stated above, it has remained since 1811, that upon their request a more extended history is here given.

The picture shows the White House, as it looked in 1811, when Washington Irving visited it. It will be seen that the Ionic portico, which is such a feature of the north front at the present day, was not then built, but was added upon its restoration after the fire in 1814. The basement colonnade to the east was torn down by Jackson, and is now being restored to conform to the original plans. For many years the west colonnade was surmounted by a conservatory, but that has been removed, and at its western extremity, facing the War and Navy Building, is the President's office, a

one-story structure, which is a disgrace to its purpose and surroundings. This picture also shows the high-hip roof destroyed by the fire, which on restoration was lowered, so that it cannot be seen projecting above the colonnade coping of the exterior walls.

The letter shown is one of a number in the possession of Mr. Sioussat's descendants. It is dated December 10, 1840, and shows the active part Mr. Sioussat took in Mrs. Madison's affairs. It is well known that after the death of ex-President Madison, Mrs. Madison's affairs became much involved, and it was only by the delicate and loving assistance rendered to her by those who esteemed her, supplemented by an appropriation from Congress for the purchase of Mr. Madison's papers, that Mrs. Madison was saved from actual embarrassment. Among these ready friends Mr. Sioussat was counted not the least. For by his thoughtful and watchful care her property was saved from severe loss. Many of these letters are of too private a nature to be placed before the public gaze, as they indirectly tell of the privations endured by this winsome woman, from whom the goddess of fortune, once so bountiful, had now in the twilight of her life withdrawn its smiling face.

It is to the honor of the man that in the days of his prosperity he remembered and requited the friendship of former days. When Mr. Sioussat alone and friendless, on an alien shore, speaking with difficulty the language of the country, looked upon askance because of his nationality, which at that time was a bar to advancement, needed friendship and encouragement, he found a ready sympathizer in the person of the wife of the then Secretary of State, Mrs. Madison—a friendship which was to endure through all the varying vicissitudes of a changeful life and which terminated only

when the icy fingers of death snapped the brittle thread of life and forever severed the kindly, pure and gracious soul from the beautiful sculptured clay known in life as Dolly Madison.

So about those dark days of her life we shall draw the enveloping cloak of forgetfulness and with gentle memory recall those happier days when she graced the White House as the first lady of the land. The house to which she refers in this letter is the one on the corner of H and Madison Place, northwest, now owned and occupied by the Cosmos Club. What better monument could Mrs. Madison have, what better fate could befall her home, once the center about which revolved the long since silent figures, whose lives and actions were such potent factors in the glorious history of our national development. What better fate than that it should now be the home of an institution the very embodiment of all for which our national life stands, dedicated to the exposition of science and art, philosophy and literature, whose motto might fittingly be written "Nil Nisi bonum."

EXHIBIT No. 1.

"WASHINGTON November 15 1843

"*Dear Madam*

"I received your letter last week enclosing fifteen dollars I enclose you the bills of the slater and glasier they are both paid I hope soon to have the pleasure to see you in Washington I wish to know if you have any further commands for me before your arrival here, if you have please to send me word and I will excuse them

"I am respectfully

"Your obedient servant

"JOHN SIOUSSAT"

EXHIBIT No. 2.

"I am truly sorry my good friend that the cow should behave so badly, but still hope that she will return to the kind protection of your family—if she has failed however to do so until this time and you think it best you will advertise her (as your own).

"I enclose \$10 to reconcile the little ones for their fatigue as well as for the honor you may do the wanderer by announcing her in a newspaper.

"D. P. MADISON."

"MR. JOHN SIOUSSAT."

EXHIBIT No. 3.

"*Mr. Sioussat,*

"I am glad, Sir, and obliged by your letter of the 5th. telling me that my home was in order through your acceptable attention to the repairs ect. and I wish I could be there to see it but the indisposition of my niece Miss Payne has made it impossible for us to set out for Washington during the last two weeks she is now better, but the weather and roads continue the uncertainty of our leaving home. I therefore enclose you \$40 to reimburse you and if J. M. Cutts does not settle with Mr. Harvey I will do so on the receipt of his bill. I regret having applied to Dr. Lanoir for \$200 when it was inconvenient for him to pay it but have no doubt of his doing so when better health enables him to think of and attend to business, until which we wait for him, and I must still trouble you to care for my little establishment which I would transfer for a time to some friends if I did not still hope to return to it this winter.

"With good wishes for yourself and family.

"D. P. MADISON"

"Montpelier

"Dec. 10th. 40"

HOUSES OF BRICKS IMPORTED FROM ENGLAND.

By GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND.

(Read before the Society November 9, 1903.)

The proposition before us is, "Are there existing here any houses of imported bricks from England?" Not, were there ever such houses? not imported bricks from other colonies, or from Holland; for the continual form of the statement is "this house was built of bricks imported from England." Nor do the trimmings of houses, such as mantels, fireplaces and insertions, come under the words: "The house was *built* of bricks from England."

I take the view that no house is made of English bricks. None of the authorities are contemporary with the constructions, their basis is a tradition often from the kitchen. The repetition of the statement is from irresponsible sources, not able to weigh testimony.

Only four years before the war of 1861 Bishop Meade's "Old Churches and Families of Virginia" set the myth in motion, and it reposes mainly in the picture magazines of to-day, which have no criterion and are munching marvel.

The custodian of the Maryland Historical Society has handed me a memorandum of all the imported bricks brought into that province, of which there is a record. There are ~~three~~ importations and they cover eight years' time.

The schooner *Nancy* of 20 tons brought 2,000 bricks from Charleston, S. C., enough to build a burial vault. The *Live Oak* of 70 tons brought 6,000 bricks from

Philadelphia, enough to build a chimney. The same number of bricks, 6,000, were brought on the ship *Britannia*, 120 tons, from Bristol, England, only six years before the Continental Congress met, when every hamlet had its brickyard.

If this be the sole record of the shipment of English bricks, let us consider what they would construct. A single chimney, such as the end chimneys outside of the old houses, if forty feet high and six feet by three square, would have 720 feet square face of wall twelve inches thick, and require over 16,000 bricks. The 6,000 Bristol bricks, therefore, would only raise it about 15 feet from the ground. And this is the only importation in the record of a province where about every early brick house has the imputation of "imported brick." The librarian said that they probably were wanted for a mantel-piece.

While it is not easy to prove a negative, there must also be a positive. Bricks from England must be proved by other than hearsay. But it is hard to drop a habit. Here is Hester Dorsey Richardson in the *Baltimore Sun* of October 25, referring to the house of Francis Lee on Nanticoke River, near Delaware State, called Rehoboth. "This old house," she says, "is still standing, and is in a good state of preservation. Its architectural design is early colonial and the brick of which it is built is of English mould." A slight tremor is in the form of the last statement: "English mould." The county history from which the lady took her statements gives a picture of a mean little house, with a door down in the corner and two windows next, and a barn roof.

Wm. Hand Browne, a Marylander, says in his "Maryland Palatinate":

"It is doubtful whether a single house (in Maryland) was built of imported brick. We find a contract for making brick as early as 1653 and still earlier mention of brickmakers."

The Pocomoke River, which divides peninsular Maryland from Virginia and was settled in 1665, has at its mouth the best brick house, and almost the only one visible from the water, "Beverly." I wrote to Judge J. Upshur Dennis, of Baltimore, for the age of this house and to learn if he knew of any imported brick houses on the Eastern shore. This is his answer:

"Beverly was certainly not built of imported brick. The present building was commenced in 1774 by my great-great-grandfather, Littleton Dennis (the fourth in descent from Donnoch Dennis, who was the first settler in this colony, coming from the Eastern shore of Virginia with the Quakers in 1665) and it was finished by his widow, Susanna (daughter of Arthur Upshur, of Upshur's Neck, Northampton Co., Va.), in 1777. The former house there was built also of brick, but I have no idea that it, or, in fact, any other house in this colony was built of imported brick.

"*A priori*," continues Judge Dennis, "one must almost inevitably reach the conclusion that the theory of imported brick is a misty fable, when it is considered how illy-equipped for the storms of the North Atlantic, the small ships of those early days were and how unlikely they would be to burden themselves with such a cargo, especially when the crying need of the colonies was for manufactured goods, from which the freight profits must have enormously exceeded any possible to have been derived from the limited cargo of bricks. Mr. Philip A. Bruce's publication of the Virginia Historical Society has completely exploded the misty myth and the persistence of the fable, has always been in a direct ratio with the size and squalor of the building."

Mr. Bruce, writing a deductive book upon the "Economic History of Virginia," declares that "all

bricks used in Virginia in the seventeenth century were manufactured there; that bricklayers and brickmakers arrived in 1607; that in 1622 bricks formed one of the principal articles exported from Virginia to the Bermudas; that the Royal Governor Berkeley's brick house had only six rooms; that the Indians were repulsed with brickbats"; and he calls it improbable that "when bricks were rated at eight shillings a thousand in Virginia, planters would have been led to import them from England where, between 1650 and 1700, they could not be purchased for less than eighteen shillings, adding to that transportation across the ocean."

The son of President John Tyler by his New York wife, Professor Lyon Gardiner Tyler, of William and Mary College, a systematic genealogist of Virginia, has repudiated the imported brick. He finds that the house of Roswell, which Bishop Meade called an immense pile of building, had only twenty-three rooms when counted, and says of Helen West Ridgely's "Old Brick Churches of Maryland": "I make objection that any of the churches of Maryland were built of imported brick. Where is the proof? In her book is authentic evidence that St. James's Church on Herring Creek was made of brick burnt upon the glebe. Surely the Marylanders had as good brick masons and as good brick clay as the Virginians."

A banker said to me only to-day: "They attribute imported bricks to Christ Church, Navy Yard, Rock Creek Church, and my church, St. John's, at Georgetown."

Till 1809 there was only a frame Christ Church; St. John's was built in 1804; the parish church system dates to 1692 and their history has been written. None claimed to be of imported brick. Georgetown was not laid out till 1752.

Hon. Wm. A. Jones, who has represented the Virginia tidewater region, thirteen counties and Fredericksburg City, many years, and who has travelled over them constantly, said to me:

"I do not know with certainty of any imported brick structure in the First district. The fact has been challenged there, as in Maryland. The church of character beyond any colonial church in Virginia is Christ Church in Lancaster County, built in 1732 by 'King' Carter, the greatest landholder. His constructions were built of native brick, I know, for his descendant has shown me the brick pits. A previous church on the spot dated to 1670. Carter was a model business planter, having his own mills, etc., and not the man to import what he could make. But there are stone sills, steps, etc., in some of our counties probably brought from other places. The people of the year of Washington's birth certainly had good plasterers, and that is a lost art now. The plaster of old Christ Church, which stood windowless and doorless for years, is as perfect as when put on 171 years ago. That workmanship, the fact that the church was a gift from one man and that man knew how to build it, militate against the idea that we went abroad in colonial days for materials or craftsmen."

Desirous to give the myth a last chance, I called last week on Mr. Bernard Green, the civil engineer and government constructor, who said:

"I have often heard with wonder the many stories of imported brick houses, when every reasonable probability is against them. A brick house of forty-five feet square, two stories and garret gables high, with one chimney (otherwise the ordinary four-roomed house and hall), would, if two bricks thick, or sixteen inches, take 150,000 bricks, and as bricks weigh two

and a half tons per thousand, a four-hundred-ton vessel would be required to transport them.

"Bricks," added Mr. Green, "come low down in the arts. Barbarian labor can make them. Fuel in a new country costs little. Lime or plaster would be a more reasonable thing to import, but shells and sand were the constituents of all our colonial coasts and rivers. To brag on such an inartistic thing as a brick, as if it were sacred, because the colonial forefathers did not make it, is the more curious in that our colonial houses sometimes had nice beading of plaster, or wood, and mouldings around the mantels and ceilings, probably Italian in style; these are not spoken of, but only the brick."

Bricks were made in Virginia in 1612: "The spademen fell to digging, the brickmen burnt their bricks." The first church at Jamestown was built of bricks burned there, like most of the houses, from "the best brick clay ever seen."

Says Mr. W. Hand Brown: "On the Eastern shore wherever we find an old brick house, or the site of one, we are pretty sure to find one or more circular pits near at hand from which the clay was taken and often traces of the ancient kiln. A gentleman who has made the early history of the Eastern shore his special study called our attention to these pits."

In 1621 the Virginia Company was entreated from Virginia to send over carpenters, brickmakers and bricklayers, more particularly to build a hotel at Jamestown.

The next year, 1622, the company writes to Virginia: "As for the brickmakers, we desire that they may be held to their contract * * * that for the erecting of the fabrick of the college the materials be not wanting."

Here is a contract of 1736 in Virginia, where George Dudley, aristocratic name, "doth agree for satisfaction of four years' servitude to make for Isham Randolph 100,000 bricks and to set and burn them."

William Byrd, the second, who built Westover, since twice rebuilt, and who wrote more particulars than any Virginia colonial authority, who owned 180,000 acres, and was both a Londoner and an American, living from 1674 to 1744, says nothing about imported bricks, nor does his precise biographer, Bassett, but Mr. Byrd writes: "Send me a carpenter, bricklayer or mason!" and says of Edenton, the colonial capital of North Carolina (1728): "A citizen here is counted extravagant if he has ambition enough to aspire to a brick chimney."

His father in 1690 sent to Rotterdam, Holland, for a dozen Russia leather chairs, bedsteads, tables, curtains, looking glasses and "inke glasses." Yet numerous later authors, on no authority, tell of the imported brick of Westover.

The last ten thousand bricks were sent from London to Massachusetts, says Bishop, in 1629, for the construction of fireplaces. They were made at Plymouth for eleven shillings a thousand, when the first brick structure, a little watch house, was put there.

In 1620 there were 110 Staffordshire men in Virginia, among them tilemakers, brickmakers, bricklayers, potters and masons. The Mason and Tyler families possibly began among these.

Where a few brick only were wanted, as for a bay window or a wine vault or a grave vault, it was inconvenient to burn a whole kiln and the coaster was instructed to stow away a few hundred or thousand. Nine hundred negroes were stowed in vessels of 200 tons burthen. One negro of 150 pounds had the weight of only thirty bricks.

The one hundred and fifty maids sent out from England to be bought as wives by the Virginia planters weighed probably eighteen thousand pounds, or the weight of 3,600 bricks, one or two chimneys! Who would prefer to be the ancestor of a chimney and warm before it with a frozen back when he might be all surrounded by a maid whose freight was the same as twenty-four bricks?

Why did we not import tiles to cover houses, as well as bricks to make their walls? This was attempted at Jamestown, but the report was made from Virginia in 1612:

“The Colony had store of bricks made, yet they have no tyle; in that trade, our brickmakers have not the art to make it; it shrinketh.”

Why, then, did they not import the tile they could not make, instead of bricks they made in profusion?

Virginia was settled 1607 with three vessels of 100 tons, 40 tons and 20 tons. The ship next year, 1608, was loaded for England with walnut boards, cedar posts, sassafras and iron ore, and the next year two vessels were built, one of 80 tons. One hundred cows were brought out in 1611, ballast enough.

The exaggerations about the larger Virginia houses began early, where these were so exceptional among the many huts.

When run down and challenged, the haunted houses of imported brick become very few, hardly half a dozen, and all in Virginia. Bishop Meade mentions hardly that many, although he examines, after his loose fashion of soliciting parish correspondence, about every county in Virginia, and as he says of Parson Weems's books: “You know not how much of fiction there is in them; you know not what to believe.”

Stratford, the Lees' place, is but a basement and one story, and the Bishop says of it: "An American writer states there were once a hundred rooms in this house. How untrue this is! There are not more than seventeen and never were more. Another says there were one hundred stalls for horses in the stable—almost equally untrue."

The Bishop says of Roswell in Gloucester County: "Every brick was English and not paid for, and the roof covered with heavy lead over the shingles, entailing a heavy debt upon the estate." But Roswell had only twenty-three rooms and it was not built till 1725, nearly at Washington's birth, long after there was less probability of bricks being imported to America than of coals to New Castle. If Mann Page possessed 70,000 acres of land, a twenty-three-roomed house was nothing too large, yet it is declared to have been "the largest and costliest mansion in the colony."

More than thirty years before Roswell, the Capital at Williamsburg, was built, and bills for moulding and burning its bricks are still extant, the two places only a few miles apart and connected by water. "This immense pile (of Roswell)," says the bishop, repeating himself, "every brick of which, and doubtless much other material, together with the workmen, were imported from England and not paid for, except by his agents and friends there, until the sale of those (30,000 acres) of lands in Virginia enabled his son, long after, to do it."

"The corner stone of it was laid by *old* President Nelson, when an infant, as it was designed for him. He was held by his nurse and the brick laid in his apron and passed through his little hands. The bricks were all from England."

Yet the house of alleged imported brick was taken down in twenty-eight years and the Revolutionary house of 1748 erected on its site, and it is this second house, though he means the first, which Bishop Meade claims the original imported bricks for.

We now come to the first great city in all the colonies, Philadelphia, before the creation of which no house of brick can here be extant.

Philadelphia was the metropolis of both Maryland and Virginia before they possessed any important town and it revived everything south of New York as far as Charleston.

Penn wrote in 1684 that Philadelphia had 357 houses, "divers of them large, well built, with three stories," and he enumerates among his tradesmen "bricklayers, masons, plasterers, plumbers, glaziers." A history of Sussex County, England, says that Penn picked out of that county 300 of its best mechanics "in order to settle a great town." Penn's own house, now in Fairmount Park, dating to 1683, was not built of imported brick, and if brick ballast was needed to settle vessels of burden, surely a city so furiously shot up as Philadelphia must have ballasted a whole fleet of such. In 1685 there had been put up "600 houses in three years' time, 250 built in twelve months," and that year Robert Turner wrote to Penn that "thy brick house had the effect of encouraging others to build of brick instead of wood, so that now, bricks being cheap and improved in quality, many brave brick houses are going up with good cellars."

"The two brickmakers are building a double brick house." "Thomas Smith and Daniel Page are partners and set to making of brick this year, and they are very good." "Pastorius and his Dutch people are preparing to make brick next year." They were build-

ing in 1685 a Quaker meeting house of brick sixty feet by forty.

Of the many large brick houses around Philadelphia like Stanton, built 1728, the Fairman mansion, which lasted from 1702 to 1825, Hamilton's Bush Hill, built 1714, down to the State House, built 1741 and the noble specimen of Christ Church, built as it stands, 1727, no hint was made that they were of imported brick.

Williamsburg, Va., was not begun until Philadelphia had become a large, stout city, but neither it nor its precursor, the brick church of 1678, imported any brick. The governor, Nicholson, who established Williamsburg, also made Annapolis a State capital, where are more fine brick houses than in all colonial Maryland elsewhere.

Had these, the first successful towns south of Philadelphia, required to import brick they would have been imported from Philadelphia, hardly two days' sail to the north, and in 1695 "good brick clay having been found in the neighborhood of Annapolis, contracts were made with Casper Herman, a burgess from Cecil County, for the erection of the parish church, school house and state house." The Herman family were from the brick town of Newcastle.

Georgetown, Alexandria, Baltimore, Fredericksburg were the Renaissance cities of the tidewater, and drew their population from the West, and mainly from the Germans. Slavery was a greater interest than towns, and until a non-slaveholding, mechanical people emerged from the West, the towns were little wharves, like Dumfries, Yorktown, Tappahannock, or even Annapolis and Norfolk. Till a Californian built across the continent to old Williamsburg nobody could see the hollow dearth it was, though described in rainbow colors. Baltimore became the late heir to twenty abortive towns formerly statutized about the Chesapeake.

We can affirm, without a doubt, that no church nor public building in Maryland or Virginia was made of imported bricks; that no private residence or lesser structure was wholly or mainly built of such bricks; that the composition of any part of any existing colonial house as of imported bricks from England is misty and unproved; and that, in every probability, no structure in America was ever walled with English bricks till our own time, and no colonial house of such material is standing in the United States.

Ten thousand English bricks are all that are recorded as sent to Massachusetts and for the construction of the large wood fireplaces, firebricks, perhaps, in 1629. As late as 1789 President Washington was surprised to see all the dwelling houses of New England with stone and brick chimneys, whereas, the primitive Virginians still used "catted" chimneys of sticks and mud, which had caused Jamestown, Boston and New Amsterdam to burn down.

In Bishop's "History of American Manufactures" we find that bricks were made at Salem among the witches in 1629; that in 1790 nearly 800,000 were exported, mainly to the West Indies, and that there was a brick machine in 1800.

New York is left out of the tattle of "imported English brick," because its imported brick, if there were any, came from Holland, a much more likely story.

Governor Stuyvesant made bricks in New York and there, it is alleged, that some yellow bricks were imported from Holland, but Albany made yellow bricks in 1630. Before 1700 New York had brick pavements.

It is declared that New Amsterdam and Albany imported Holland brick, and the price is quoted in 1661, of \$4.16 per thousand, payable in beaver skins, but before this, or in 1657, there was a tile kiln sold at

Albany, called a *Pannenbacherig*, and if native tiles were then employed, what occasion for imported bricks, especially when stone was everywhere and the Dutch brickmakers universal? Vessels between New York and Holland sailed by the Dutch West Indies, getting cargoes of sugar, rum, slaves and whatever would pay. That potent nation was not carrying bricks for posterity.

I suspect that preparations were made to import and inspect Dutch bricks at New York, but that the immediate rise of the brick manufacture precluded the experiment. Valentine notes that Tunis Kray was tally-master of the bricks and tiles imported from Holland in 1655, not the first instance of a *sinecure* office, for in 1637 bricks at New Amsterdam sold for ten florins a thousand, or four dollars, the price of four bushels of rye. Mr. Burr Todd claims that the inn of 1642 was "of Holland brick," but in 1628 they baked plenty of native bricks there.

The duty upon imported bricks was made forty shillings on the hundred pounds' worth, and O'Callaghan says that the resources of the country in building material were not at first understood, so that Van Rensselaer, living in Holland, sent out, in 1642, 30,000 building stone, 4,000 tiles, and 3,000 bricks, but his commissary told him to stop, as the tiles were not worth the freight and the stone was better at Albany. That year, the outbreak of the English civil war, New Netherlands was nineteen years settled, and we may presume that it was the last of Dutch imported bricks. Twenty-five years after that, the entire New Netherlands had only 20,000 people. Not only yellow bricks, the color of those called imported, but Delft blue tiles were made in New York.

Although Timothy Dwight, a New England preacher, asserted, in 1798, of Albany, like Bishop Meade of Virginia, that the first house in this town is now standing and was built of bricks brought from Holland, yet the Albany publisher, Joel Munsell, who collated fourteen volumes of Albany records, says: "It is doubtful if any of the Dutch houses had brick brought from Holland."

All the checkered tiles necessary to trim a small toy-like house of New Amsterdam might have been packed in a barrel or might have been burnt in the large fire-places described by Sarah Knight.

Parts of dwellings on the bay waters were brought from other states, and other countries, as to this day. Marble mantels, keystones, gravestones, nails, gate caps, iron work useful and ornamental, veneers for panels, were used for the tasteful, often beautiful mansions, of which the best do still exist but are few, such as Mt. Airy, Va., built in 1750, and Sabine Hall in 1730.

Nobody knew Virginia better than Jefferson, who was descended from the barn builder, Randolph, the common ancestor of the Virginia Randolphs, as the Masons and Tylers were probably just what their name is, wall masons and roof tilers, for in the Norman French *maçon* meant a bricklayer. The Masons came from Stafford, a county of pottery and bricks, and named their Stafford County in Virginia, for it.

"The private buildings of Virginia," wrote Jefferson, in 1785, "are very rarely constructed of stone or brick, much the greater portion being of scantling and boards plastered with lime. It is impossible to devise things more ugly, uncomfortable and happily more perishable. * * * The college and hospital (at Williamsburg) are rude, misshapen piles, which, but that they have no roofs, would be taken for brick kilns. * * *

A workman can scarcely be found capable of drawing an (architectural) order. The genius of architecture seems to have shed its maledictions over this land. * * * Buildings are often erected by individuals of considerable expense. * * * But the first principles of the art are unknown and there exists scarcely a model among us sufficiently chaste to give an idea of them."

Houses in England, Shakspeare's included, were made of timbers filled in with lath, plaster and pebbles, or of wood and mud thatched with straw, and without glass or chimneys. The great fire of 1666 caused London to rebuild with more bricks, after the English conquest of New York.

In the concordances of Shakspeare I find only one mention by that author of bricks, when Smith the weaver says of Jack Cade: "Sir, he made a chimney in my father's house and the bricks are alive at this day to testify it."

"Philadelphia," said Dean Prideaux, "were it all built according to the design, would not be much behind any other city in the whole world."

Brick palaces in London were hardly known until William of Orange. The low Hampton Court was the first. Whitehall, burnt in 1697, was a composite structure. If Raleigh spread his cloak before the Queen, that showed no brick pavements. Until the navigation act was repealed, England got many bricks and all her tiles from Holland, close by, where was no stone, but bricks.

Holland was the example-setting country of our colonial times. Hume says that to make as great a country as Holland led the English nation into the civil wars, as Hollands' United States named ours. He says that London in the time of James I. "was almost entirely built of wood and in every respect was cer-

tainly a very ugly city. The Earl of Arundel first introduced the general practice of brick buildings.”

And from our start, bricks were higher in England than here and not as good. The brick of London does not compare with that of our coast cities, built upon the nearly pure clay deposit that is below the heads of tide, whilst chalk and marl adjoin the British metropolis.

If it was reasonable to transport in sailing vessels on the stormy Atlantic a cargo that will not at the present day pay to transport a few miles by rail, bricks would have been a more natural export *to* Europe than *from* it. They belonged to the class of raw materials.

It is a poor encomium upon such a house as Westover that its tasteful proprietor and his society could not make its bricks.

When the courts of the Library of Congress were lined to make them light, with white-enamelled bricks from England, the spirit of our brickyards leaped forth like Daniel’s image from the furnace, and soon supplied that new necessity, as we may believe that our emigrant forefathers would not sit down in the clay till somebody made them a wall, like Bottom in the *Dream*:

“O wicked wall! through whom I see no bliss,—
Cursed be thy stones for thus deceiving me!

* * * * *

Thus have I, Wall, my part discharged so
And being done, thus Wall away doth go!”



THE LYRIC ELEMENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

By AINSWORTH R. SPOFFORD.

(Read before the Society December 14, 1903.)

There is a feature in the life of every people which has been commonly neglected by historians. We have abundant chronicles of events, of battles and sieges, of rebellions and revolutions, of laws and politics, of inventions and discoveries. But the inner history that reveals the true spirit of the people, the emotions that stir them in great crises, the humor that finds vent in satire and in caricature, the feeling that breaks forth in song—goes for the most part unrecorded.

Yet there is no question that this imaginative element, if we may so call it, exerts a powerful influence on the popular mind, and aids in fixing principles, and in moulding the course of events. We recognize the truth of that often-quoted and always misquoted saying of a stout Scotch republican of two centuries ago, Andrew Fletcher: "I knew a very wise man that believed that if a man were permitted to make all the ballads, he need not care who should make the laws of a nation." Indeed, who is there among us that can repeat the language of any law? and who that cannot repeat multitudes of poetical lines that live in memory forever? As the world's greatest poet wrote:

"The man that hath no music in himself
Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils:
Let no such man be trusted."

Find, if you can, a man who can hear the grand choral lines of "The Star Spangled Banner" pealing forth without a thrill of emotion, and you will find either a man without a heart, or one whose heart is not in the right place.

There are few agencies that exert more power over the minds of a people than the songs which acquire wide currency in times of public excitement. These verses, often thrown off at white heat from some poetic brain, are caught up and repeated from mouth to mouth, until they acquire a celebrity not always justified by their merit. Sometimes, however, a song has such inherent felicity of sentiment, of melody, or of expression—or even of all combined—that it is taken out of the rank of ephemeral verse, and becomes classical. In a very few instances also, a song which meets great popular favor comes at last to be what is known as a national song. Especially is this honor apt to be conferred upon a song to which a striking and harmonious vocal and instrumental score is set by some musical composer. Such a melody, intoned with mingled power and sweetness, by harmonious human voices, joined to the swelling notes of the organ, or a full orchestra, vibrates through all the air, thrills the hearts of the listeners, and realizes Shakespeare's words:

"Such harmony is in immortal souls."

Whether the people of the United States have a national song is a question open to wide difference of opinion. Certainly we have none that can be regarded as adopted by national authority. In our complex system of government, where all powers not expressly granted by the Constitution are reserved to the States or to the people, it follows that Congress has no more power to prescribe a national song than a national

flower, or a national game or custom. In the year 1861, when the people were stirred by the unexampled excitement of the war waged to preserve the Union, a committee of gentlemen in New York offered a prize of five hundred dollars for a national hymn, which should fitly embody patriotic sentiment—not a war song, but one adapted for the whole Union, and for all time. About twelve hundred metrical compositions were sent in, and after being duly read and considered, the committee announced their unanimous conclusion that no one of them was well suited for a national hymn. They therefore made no award. While some of the poems exhibited much poetic excellence as lyrical compositions, many were marked by vulgarity and bad taste, bad grammar, bad rhythm, bad sentiment—bad rhymes, and bad spelling—in short, they were everything which a national hymn ought not to be.

While we have as yet no formally adopted national song, there was issued an order of the Navy Department in 1889, requiring that “the Star Spangled Banner” should be played at morning colors, and “Hail Columbia” at evening colors, on all war vessels of the United States, and at naval stations. This regulation is still in force. The Army Regulations, on the other hand, do not prescribe what airs shall be played by military bands of the United States, but empower commanding officers to require them to play “national and patriotic airs” on suitable occasions.

Of the three or four prominent lyrics sometimes styled national songs, it may be remarked that the one entitled “America,” written about 1832 by Samuel F. Smith, and beginning “My country, ’tis of thee,” is rather a devotional hymn than a national song. It is quite unfitted for a march, and it has no chorus, though evincing fine sentiment and some lyric power. Both

its meter and its music, moreover, are borrowed from the British "God Save the King."

The second lyric, "Hail! Columbia!" was written by Joseph Hopkinson in 1798. It is a purely patriotic hymn, without local allusion, and has a few fine lines, as these in the climax of the poem:

"Sound, sound the trump of fame,
Let Washington's great name
Ring through the world with loud applause!"

But as a whole, the lyric is essentially commonplace.

"Yankee Doodle," another claimant to the honor of being a national air, has no merit whatever, except as a quick-step march, played by a lively brass band. The words are unspeakably and irredeemably silly. The British gave us the air, in the French war in 1755; and our Revolutionary sires gave it back to them in 1775 and since, when this queer old smashing tune has testified to America's pluck and power, on land and sea.

Is "The Star-Spangled Banner" of Francis S. Key a fit composition to be regarded as a national song? It is objected to it that the lines are too long, that it is difficult to sing it in tune, and that it is too local, in describing a particular event, whereas a national song should be broadly general in character. On the other hand, it is claimed that it is original, elevated, and inspiring, full to the brim of patriotic feeling. The melody admits of solo, duet and chorus. Its spirit fitly represents a free nation, full of energy and exulting hope. It is martial enough for a battle hymn, as it was born amid the bursting of the shells, and the thunder of the guns; and its closing verse and grand choral lines fit it in a good degree for a national anthem in time of peace.

The American Revolution gave birth to many patriotic songs, none of which were of distinguished merit.

Dr. Prime, of New York, wrote "A Song for the Sons of Liberty." Here are two stanzas:

"In story we 're told
How our fathers of old
Braved the rage of the wind and the waves;
And crossed the deep o'er,
To this desolate shore,
All because they would not be slaves.

"The birthright we hold
Shall never be sold,
But sacred maintained to our graves;
And before we comply,
We will gallantly die,
For we must not, we will not be slaves!"

William Billings (1746-1800) was one of the earliest native writers of music in America, and an ardent patriot in Revolutionary times. He published half a dozen collections of hymns, mostly with score. One of them thus began:

"Let tyrants shake their iron rod,
And slavery clink her galling chains,
We fear them not, we trust in God,—
New England's God forever reigns.

"Howe and Burgoyne, and Clinton too,
With Prescott and Cornwallis joined,
Together plot our overthrow,
In one infernal league combined."

The verses following, with others to the tune of "God Save the King," appeared in 1779 in the *Pennsylvania Packet*:

"God save the Thirteen States!
Long rule the United States—
God save our States!
Make us victorious,
Happy and glorious,
No tyrants over us,
God save our States!"

" We'll fear no tyrants nod,
Nor stern oppression's rod,
Till fame's no more,
Thus, Liberty, when driven
From Europe's states, is given
A safe retreat and haven
On our free shore."

During the second war with Great Britain, in 1812-1815, the larger number of patriotic lyrics written were naval songs. This grew out of the great success of the American cruisers against the British armed vessels, mainly on the lakes.

An ode sung at a dinner to the officers of the celebrated frigate *Constitution*, after her victory over the British war ship *Guerriere*, had these lines:

" Why lulls Britannia's thunder,
That waked the watery war?
Why stays that gallant *Guerriere*,
Whose streamers waved so fair?
That streamer drinks the ocean wave!
That warrior's fight is o'er!
Still they ride, side by side,
While Columbia's thunders roar;
While her cannon's fire is flashing fast,
And her Yankee thunders roar."

And here is a naval quatrain, to the tune of "Yankee Doodle":

" Yankee sailors have a knack,
Haul away! yeo ho, boys;
Of pulling down a British jack,
'Gainst any odds you know, boys."

A naval victory of Commodore Rodgers is thus celebrated:

" John Bull, who has for ten years past
Been daily growing prouder,
Has got another taste at last
Of Yankee ball and powder.

"Finding our injuries prolonged,
Become a growing evil,
Our Commodore got leave, if wronged,
To blow 'em to the devil.

"And Rodgers is a spunky lad
In naval battles handy,
'Twas he who whipped the Turks so well,
With Yankee Doodle dandy."

The Mexican war of 1846-7 gave birth to a volume entitled, "National Songs, Ballads, and Patriotic Poetry, chiefly devoted to the War of 1846." Here is a specimen verse:

"Ere the fair land of Texas, a star of our flag
Shall be dimmed by the Mexican foe,
Arouse, sons of freedom, on mountain and crag,
And crush the usurpers full low!"

A "Song of the Volunteers" thus began:

"The Mexicans are on our soil,
In war they wish to embroil;
They've tried their best and worst to vex us,
By murdering our brave men in Texas.
We're on our way to Rio Grande,
And with arms they'll find us handy."

I come now to a branch of the subject which should be treated with special care, involving, as it does, the political prejudices and passions of the past sixty years. It is the historian's business to make faithful record of all popular excitements and extravagances, while refraining from undue personal reflections, and from blowing the trumpet of any party. How prodigious a share, in the history of human error, has been occupied by the exaggerated campaign eloquence and campaign minstrelsy of our politics, it requires but an impartial retrospect to show. At each quadrennial upheaval, termed a Presidential election, we are treated

to a saturnalia of scandal, compared with which the ordinary newspaper pabulum of other years is insipid and tame. All the weapons in the arsenal of detraction are drawn upon, and party malignity and personal defamation become the order of the day.

Concerning ourselves here with the campaign songs which have entered into the political history of the country, I find the first notable examples in the Presidential campaign of 1840, which witnessed the defeat of the Democratic party and the election of the Whig candidate, William Henry Harrison. That contest was one of the most exciting and picturesque ever seen. Very early in the summer began the great series of mass meetings that were kept up till election day in November. The Democrats had unwittingly supplied their opponents with the watch-word of the campaign by ridiculing General Harrison as an uncultivated old farmer, who lived in a log cabin, and drank hard cider habitually. The Whigs took up the challenge, and log cabins and barrels of cider became all the rage, being carried in long and enthusiastic processions, marching to the music of military bands.

I well remember how I walked, led by boyish love of a show, from my home in Amherst, Mass., to Northampton, nine miles distant, to attend a great outpouring of the people, addressed by campaign orators, and enlivened by campaign songs. Then first I heard the stirring strains of the chorus which was supposed to ring the knell of Van Buren:

“ Van, Van is a used up man,
Hurrah for old Tippecanoe!
And surely you'll give him your vote,
And surely I will too;
And we'll clear the way to the White House,
For old Tippecanoe, and Tyler too,

For old Tippecanoe, my boys,
For old Tippecanoe,
We'll take a mug of cider yet
For old Tippecanoe!"

In that "log cabin and hard cider campaign," General Harrison, ignoring the dignity supposed to surround a Presidential candidate, himself took a part, speaking in Dayton, Chillicothe and other large towns in Ohio, which was his own state. Among the favorite songs of that day was one satirizing Calhoun, of South Carolina, in such strains as these:

"John C. Calhoun, my Jo John, I'm sorry for your fate,
You've nullified the tariff laws, you've nullified your state.
You've nullified your party, John, and principles, you know,
And now you've nullified yourself, John C. Calhoun, my Jo."

The election contest of 1840 was styled the "Singing Campaign," but the Clay and Polk election of four years later was equally entitled to that name. Half a dozen campaign song books were issued, but I can give only a sample or two of the refrains. Here is one:

"Wake up, Whigs, all come along,
For Harry Clay we'll go it strong."

Another became celebrated as the "Coon song," the first verse of which thus ran:

"The moon was shining sliver bright,
The stars with glory crowned the night,
High on a limb that same old coon
Was singing to himself this tune;
Get out o' the way, you're all unlucky,
Clear the track for old Kentucky."

Another chorus ran:

"They say Jimmy Polk is a very nice man,
Long live Harry Clay!
But we'll use him up as we used little Van,
Long live Harry Clay!"

Per contra, the "Polk and Dallas Minstrel" thus sang the Star-Spangled Banner of the Democrats:

"Oh say, can you see, through fierce faction's dark night,
The flag of Democracy gallantly gleaming,
Whose stars never shed a more beautiful light,
Than now o'er Dallas and Polk mildly beaming!
Oh! thus it e'er when our party shall stand
Between, these great States and the Whigs' desolation,
Blest with freedom and peace, may the well-governed land
Join the party whose zeal wrought this great reformation!
Let us sing the good day when in battle array,
We triumph o'er both Frelinghuysen and Clay;
And bright shall the flag of Democracy wave
O'er the land and the people 'tis destined to save!"

Another melody thus terminates:

"Farewell, oh! farewell to thee, Clay of Kentucky,
We'll leave thee to wander by Salt River's shore;
We well might have known that thy cause was unlucky,
For the Democrats beat thee so often before!"

In 1848 came the "Rough and Ready" candidate of the Whigs, General Zachary Taylor, who was matched against General Cass, the Democratic nominee. Several "Rough and Ready Songsters" appeared with melodies like the following:

"Then here's to the chieftain who urged on the fight,
And nobly defended our flag,
And said, as he saw the foe march to the fight,
A little more grape, Captain Bragg!"

Here is another:

"He's on victory's track, and he can't be put back,
For the people have said that they trust in Old Zach;
So our brave Rough and Ready in triumph shall run,
Till the White House is reached, and our victory won!"

In that election of 1848, a third candidate was nominated, by the Free Soil party, composed of come-outers

from the Democrats on the slavery-extension issue, and a large body of "Liberty party" men, who had voted for James G. Birney in 1844. Van Buren and Adams was their rallying cry.

"Throw out the broad canvass to catch the free wind.
Leave old party issues, like rubbish, behind,
With Van Buren and Adams to lead on our van,
Live and die we for freedom, for truth and for man!"

And here is a "Free Soil" chorus:

"For freedom and free soil, my boys,
For freedom and free soil,
Ring out the shout to all about,
For freedom and free soil."

And the Democrats were not behind with campaign minstrelsy, as witness these lines:

"They come in Democratic van,
From old Kentucky and Michigan,
Within the nation's seat to shine,
In eighteen hundred forty-nine.
For every state declares it so,
That Cass and Butler in must go,
Next Fourth of March will prove it so,
For thus have freemen willed it, oh!"

The first Presidential campaign of the Republican party was in 1856, when John C. Fremont was their candidate against James Buchanan. Fremont songs were rife all over the North. Here are specimens, set to the music of well-known airs:

"We are going to have a President,
In a few days—few days;
His name is John C. Fremont,
We are all going for him.
Old Buchanan can't come in,
In a few days—few days;
Millard Fillmore can't begin,
For we shan't vote for him."

Another:

" Free speech Fremont will aye defend,
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!
And slavery's curse he'll ne'er extend,
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!

Another:

" Free soil, free men,
Free speech, free pen,
Freedom from slavery's thrall;
Free North, free East,
Free South, free West,
Freedom for one and all!
Free ports, free seas,
Free ships, free breeze,
Free homesteads for the people;
Free bells on every steeple,
Free pulpits and free preachers;
(Three cheers for all the Beechers).
Freedom's star-spangled banners,
Waving o'er gallant Kansas;
Freedom from Border smugglers,
Three groans for Pierce and Douglas!"

It is hardly possible for those who have never shared in the enthusiasm of a great political mass meeting to conceive of the furor sometimes inspired by speeches and songs. Held, for the most part, in the open air, with the broad blue sky for canopy, the auditors take on a freedom not elsewhere seen, and shout their vociferous approval, or roar forth a chorus, at the top of their many-voiced lungs. All that is sung or spoken goes to confirm opinion, and to strengthen them in their party faith.

The second campaign of the Republicans in 1860 was won against three other candidates, Douglas, Breckinridge and Bell. Lincoln did not receive a majority of the popular vote cast, but having a large plurality over Douglas, he carried 17 out of the 33 states, and received a majority of 57 in the electoral vote. Other Presidents who have been elected by a minority of the popu-

lar vote have been Polk, Taylor, Buchanan, Hayes, Garfield, Cleveland (in two elections) and Benjamin Harrison. All of these received a plurality of the votes—except Hayes.

The 1860 campaign was one of the most memorable historically, in the annals of the country. It was marked by immense mass meetings, imposing torch-light processions, exhaustless stump speeches, and ringing campaign songs. "Wide-Awake" clubs, "Wide-Awake" hats, "Wide-Awake" banners, and "Wide-Awake" songs were all the rage. I can give but few brief samples of what were sung in those stirring days, and in that shouting campaign:

"Old honest Abe we will elect,
In a few days—few days;
The Loco-focos we'll eject,
And send Buchanan home:
For we will wait no longer.
Than a few days—few days,
For we can wait no longer,
To send Buchanan home."

Another melody began:

"Hurrah for the choice of the nation,
Our chieftain so brave and so true;
We'll go for the great Reformation,
For Lincoln and Liberty too!"

"Hurrah for our cause, of all causes the best,
Hurrah for old Abe, honest Abe of the West!"

And here is a third:

"Unconquerable as the waves—Hurrah!
We'll bury all the Federal knaves—Hurrah!
With honest Abe to lead the van,
Bushwhackers, stop us if you can—Hurrah!
Three hearty cheers, boys, for our cause—Hurrah!
Three for the Union and the Laws—Hurrah!
Now forward! and the day is won,
For Illinois' undaunted son—Hurrah!"

Lincoln was renominated and elected in 1864. Again the "Wide-Awake" meetings were melodious with songs like this:

"Here's a toast for all to think on,
A song for all to sing—
Here's a health to thee, Abe Lincoln,
Now let the welkin ring.
Here's a health to thee, Abe Lincoln,
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!
Here's a health to thee, Abe Lincoln,
And Andy Johnson, too!"

Another:

"No sectional feuds shall e'er sever
The bands which our forefathers wrought;
The Union forever and ever!
Unsullied, unstained and unbought,
Is the watchword from Lincoln we borrow,
And he stands by his promise so true,
Then who will our leader not follow,
When his flag is the Red, White and Blue"?

Still another opens thus:

"Hurrah! hurrah for Uncle Abe,
Hurrah—hurrah for Andy,
Hurrah for all the Union boys,
And Yankee Doodle Dandy!"

"Three cheers for every one who loves
Our glorious Yankee nation,
We'll whip the rebels well, my boys,
Then manage all creation."

The Democratic ticket, too, had its songsters in 1864, when General McClellan ran on a Peace platform against Lincoln on a "War for the Union" ticket.

Here are some lines:

"The long-tried Democrats our country will defend,
They will maintain their rights, aye, to the bitter end!
The Union must and shall, true Democrats all cry,
It shall forever be preserved on old *State Rights*, for aye!"

"Long live Democracy, our country to adorn,
With equal rights to North and South, as in our Nation's morn."

And here is another:

"McClellan's for the Union,
And triumph sure he must;
A cause so just will prosper
If in God we place our trust:
Hurrah! Hurrah!
For 'little Mac' hurrah!
Hurrah for the dear old flag,
With every stripe and star."

In 1868 the Seymour and Blair songster thus sounded the loud timbrel against General Grant, the candidate of the Republicans:

"We are ready for the conflict,
With loyal hearts and true,
Shouting the battle-cry of Seymour.
And we'll surely gain in progress,
In the work we have to do,
Shouting the battle-cry of Seymour."

In the next quadrennial contest, in 1872, General Grant was opposed by Horace Greeley, the candidate of the Liberal Republicans and the Democrats. Many were the popular melodies composed and sung for the *Tribune* editor, "the sage farmer of Chappaqua." Here is one:

"We have joined the band of Liberals, to save our country's name,
Shouting for honest Horace Greeley!
We have heard from all the Democrats, and they will do the same,
Shouting for honest Horace Greeley.

Greeley forever, hurrah, boys, hurrah!
Down with Long Branch, and up with Chappaqua!
And we will rally round the white hat, we will rally once again,
Shouting for honest Horace Greeley."

Another song, parodied upon Macaulay's stirring lyric, "the Battle of Ivry," began thus:

" Now glory to the ballot box, from which all glories are,
And glory to our candidate, the sage of Chappaqua! "

The Grant minstrels in 1872 were also prolific in parodies of familiar verses, adapted to satirise his opponent, Horace Greeley. Here is one specimen:

" A DIRGE FOR H. G.
"Close the polls, his work is done,
What to him is friend or foeman?
Rise of wheat or fall of corn,
Woodhull, Stone, or other woman?
Lay him low, let him blow
Of his turnips, white as snow;
What cares he? he does not know
How the rutabagas grow."

Here is another, after "The Last Rose of Summer":

" 'Tis the last show for Greeley,
And that show, oh how thin!
All his old friends have freely
Gone back now on him;
No old-time admirer
Will stick worth a straw,
To that old aspirer
From fair Chappaqua."

The following on Horace Greeley was written by George Alfred Townsend, during the campaign of 1872:

' Like a man of the day, every day he had his say,
And he said it like a bold writer freely;
Who can stand in white and black with so little to take back,
In the forty years of honest Horace Greeley! "

Another remarkable song, styled "The Last Rebel Yell," purporting to be written by a Confederate soldier who had made up his mind to vote for Greeley, opened thus:

“I’m a rale old Reb, with but one leg left,
And I’m ’fraid I can’t raise so loud a yell,
As when I followed Jackson through the Blue Ridge cleft,
Or stormed in the ruins of Fort Hell.

But the old yell comes,
Though silent are the drums,
Whoo-hoop!
(Gray columns in the van!)
For the first of the Yanks,
Who after we broke ranks,
Behaved like an Uncle and a Man!”

As elucidating this hearty encomium of a Southerner upon Greeley, it is well to recall the fact, now quite forgotten, that when Jefferson Davis, President of the defeated Confederacy, was a prisoner in Fortress Monroe, Horace Greeley was the first to offer his personal bail-bond for his release. The generous offer was accepted, and it furnished a substantial proof of the broad humanity so characteristic of that great editor. His popularity, however, could not stand against the prestige of the victor of Appomattox, and soon after that crushing defeat his life ebbed away to its melancholy and pathetic close. With all his errors—and they were neither few nor small—Horace Greeley was a power among men, of undeniable mark and influence. He it was who originated the saying that it became the North to invite the South to “shake hands across the bloody chasm.”

In the campaign of 1880, General Garfield was elected over General Hancock.

“Yankee Doodle” was again pressed into service—as in this quatrain:

“The soldier boys are wide awake,
And eager for the fray, sir;
They’ll vote for Garfield—no mistake—
On next election day, sir.”

And another refrain ran thus:

“ Jim Garfield’s at the front!
Jim Garfield’s at the front!
’T would be a sin to fail to win,
With Garfield at the front! ”

And the “Democratic Campaign Songster” had the following:

“ O, how proudly will they cheer him,
Hancock brave and true,
Each one striving to be near him—
Brave boys dressed in blue.”

When the Republicans put up Blaine and Logan in 1884, the campaign carols embraced many parodies, and among them none was more musical or more effective than one which thus began:

“ Oh, we’ll rally round the flag, boys! rally once again,
Strike up our grand battle slogan,
For our gallant standard-bearers, the Plumed Knight of Maine,
And Black Eagle of the West, Jack Logan!

The Union forever! hurrah, boys, hurrah!
Down with the Democrats, lay ’em in the straw;
While we rally round the flag, boys, rally once again,
Shouting—hurrah for Blaine and Logan! ”

On the other hand, the Democrats kept up the spirits of their great historical party, in fighting for what proved the winning cause of Cleveland and Hendricks, by such melodies as this:

“ The Cleveland banner proudly waves,
And greets the morning light,
And round it rally those as friends
Who once were foes in fight—
Who once were foes in fight, my boys,
But in a better day,
Around the Cleveland banner throng.
Alike, the Blue and the Gray.”

The Presidential canvass of 1888 resulted in the election of Benjamin Harrison. The Democrats put up Cleveland and Thurman, and here is a stanza of one of their campaign songs:

"Now, 'down with all disunion thought,'
Say those who wore the gray;
'Away with ribald section talk,'
The blue-coat veterans say;
They rally now in peace and pride,
And who shall say them nay?
For Cleveland now they come in blue—
For Cleveland now in gray!"

On the other hand, thus sang the Republican minstrels:

"Say, white folks, hab you seen Grove Cleveland,
Wid de sadness on his face,
Go round de White House mighty lonesome,
Like he 'spects to leab de place?
He's heard de shout, Ben Harrison's comin',
An he knows he's had his day;
His eyes he rubs wid de red bandanna,
For he's gwine to go away."

And another song ran:

"The man that puts his veto on
The people's brave defenders,
Shall find that ballots firmly thrown
Are meant for double-enders;
Nor Cleveland clubs, nor Cobden clubs
Can tide the matter over:
Carry the news to the Freetrade cubs,
Carry the news to Grover."

The personal characteristics of candidates were often exploited in campaign songs. Senator Thurman, who stood for Vice President on the Cleveland ticket, was noted for his use of red silk bandanna handkerchiefs. So one melody ran to this refrain:

"Let others boast the banner
They call the red bandanna,

And try to sound its praise from sea to sea;
 There's one that floats above it,
 And fondly, boys, I love it,
 The starry flag is good enough for me!
 Haul down that red bandanna!" Etc.

In the Presidential campaign of 1900, there was no remarkable display of musical talent on the hustings. But songs were sung and campaign melodies were printed. Here is a single verse of one for Bryan:

"Our people will soon have a voice,
 Nor bow to the corporate choice,
 Oh, honor this fall is dear to us all,
 For Bryan goes to the White House;
 When Bryan goes to the White House,
 To bid poor McKinley arouse,
 Oh! we will be there, with joy in the air,
 When Bryan goes to the White House."

History, however, does not record that Bryan went to the White House.

The Republican campaign songs of 1900 included this:

"In the hour of gravest peril,
 When fair Cuba would be free,
 With her hands outstretched appealing,
 To us for liberty;
 Then the call to arms resounded
 From the Presidential chair,
 And the Nation quickly answered,
 'Tell McKinley we'll be there.
 We'll be there, we'll be there,
 All united everywhere;
 On the sixth of next November,
 Tell McKinley! we'll be there!'"

The songs and poems of the Civil War period, of which many collections have been published, were more notable for quantity than for quality. Yet among them are a few worthy to live in a literature which can boast of very few lyric masterpieces. The sentiment

most dominant in these war poems is love of country—whether they were produced in the North or in the South. Each side in the long struggle of four years fought with full assurance of the justice of their cause. Full of sincerity are all the verses, however varied the theme, or however crude and imperfect the expression.

Among the poems which Confederate bards put forth was "A Cry to Arms," by Henry Timrod. Here is a single stanza:

"Ho! woodmen of the mountain side!
Ho! dwellers in the vales!
Ho! ye who by the roaring tide
Have roughened in the gales!
Come! flocking gayly to the fight,
From forest, hill, and lake;
We battle for our country's right,
And for the lily's sake!"

James R. Randall's song—

"There's life in the old land yet"

has greater poetic merit than his more famous lyric, "My Maryland," which owed much of its wide vogue all through the war to the music of the air to which it was set.

A fine monody on General Stonewall Jackson, by Henry L. Flash, of Galveston, opens thus:

"Not midst the lightning of the stormy fight,
Nor in the rush upon the vandal foe,
Did kingly death, with his resistless might,
Lay the great leader low."

Perhaps General Albert Pike's poem, set to the lively Southern march of "Dixie," ranks among the best. The tune was composed by Daniel D. Emmett, of Ohio, for Bryant's Minstrels, who first sang and played it in New York, in 1859. The origin of the term

"Dixie," as applied to the South, has been much disputed. Some maintain that from the similarity in sound of Dixie and Dixon, the name was first applied (by corruption) to the land south of Mason and Dixon's line. But it is more than doubtful whether any such expression as "Dixon's land" was ever used. Another alleged origin derives the expression "Dixie" from the ten-dollar note "dix," issued by the Bank of Louisiana. These notes became known all over the South and up the Mississippi as "dixies," it is said, and the Southern country came to be called "Dixie's land." This seems rather apocryphal, but a third theory to account for the name is still more so. A large slaveholder, it is said, named "Dixie," removed from New York a century ago, to the South, and his plantation was called by his slaves "Massa Dixie's land." After a time, the phrase was extended to all the Southern land, which was called "the land of Dixie" in popular parlance thenceforward.

However doubtful the origin of the term, its application has become established by more than half a century's usage; and as "*usus norma loquendi*" legitimates even slang expressions, it is too late for the purists to quarrel with the name.

The fine lyric, entitled "The Conquered Banner," was written at the close of the Civil War by Father A. J. Ryan. It opens thus:

"Furl that banner, for 'tis weary,
Round its staff 'tis drooping dreary;
Furl it, fold it—it is best;
For there's not a man to wave it,
And there's not a sword to save it,
And there's not one left to lave it
In the blood which heroes gave it,
And its foes now scorn and brave it;
Furl it, hide it—let it rest!"

The sentiment and the melody combine to give to this poem, which its author once said had become "the requiem of the lost cause," a tender and pathetic interest.

In the vast number of popular songs which the war for the Union evoked, only a few can here be referred to. These may serve to represent the popular feeling that rose and swelled as the heart of the nation quickened its pulses with every victory, or was depressed and saddened at each disastrous defeat. These lyrics of the war were a vital and significant part of the history of those times. They picture to us not only the impress of passing events, and the ever-varying fortunes of the great struggle, but the emotions of the people under the stress and strain of ill fortune, or the exultant feeling inspired by military success. The more incisive of them came at once into the widest popularity. They were sung in political gatherings, in clubs, in parlors, in theaters, and in churches; their refrains were hummed by men of business in their counting houses, by the farmers in their fields, and by the mechanics at their work; they were scattered in broadside ballads and in newspapers, and the very children sang them in the streets.

But beyond and above the popular enthusiasm awakened among the people at home, came the impress of these stirring lyrics among the soldiers in the field. Almost every family had its father, son or brother at the front, and the mails that followed the armies bore these winged messengers, joined with the news from the loved ones at home. As the boys in blue lay in their long evening bivouacs, or pressed forward in their weary marches, they relieved the tedium of life by singing "Tenting on the old camp ground," or "We'll rally round the flag, boys, rally once again,"

or shouting the choral refrain, "Glory, glory, hallelujah! as we go marching on."

One of the most expressive and stirring of the Civil War lyrics was "Three hundred thousand more," which voiced the mighty impulse of the volunteer army of the Union.

"We are coming, Father Abraham,
Three hundred thousand more,
From Mississippi's winding stream,
And from New England's shore;
We leave our ploughs and workshops,
Our wives and children dear,
With hearts too full for utterance,
With but a silent tear:
Six hundred thousand loyal men
And true have gone before,
We are coming, Father Abra'am,
Three hundred thousand more!"

Another favorite melody of the Union camps ran thus:

"Yes, we'll rally round the flag, boys,
We'll rally once again,
Shouting the battle-cry of freedom!
We will rally from the hill-side
We will rally from the plain,
Shouting the battle-cry of Freedom!
The Union forever! hurrah, boys, hurrah!
Down with the traitors, up with the stars!
While we rally round the flag, boys,
Rally once again,
Shouting the battle-cry of Freedom!"

One of the favorite lyrics of the soldiers was "Marching Along," which thus began:

"The army is gathering from near and from far:
The trumpet is sounding the call for the war;
McClellan's our leader, he's gallant and strong,
We'll gird on our armor and be marching along."

The popular marching song, "John Brown's Body," owes its vogue more to its stirring refrain—

"Glory, glory, hallelujah!"

than to any merit in the sentiment or in the poetry—in both of which it is woefully deficient. A Massachusetts version of the song has this chorus:

"Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Sings that army in the skies;
Glory to the Lord, our Captain!
His army here replies.
Glory rings through heaven's arches,
Earth takes on the grand accord;
Glory! on to glory marches
The army of the Lord."

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic" is more of a religious anthem than an army song.

Here is a cheery refrain which became highly popular toward the close of the war:

"When Johnny comes marching home again,
Hurrah! Hurrah!
We'll give him a hearty welcome then,
Hurrah! Hurrah!
The men will cheer, the boys will shout,
The ladies they will all turn out,
And we'll all feel gay,
When Johnny comes marching home."

Thomas Buchanan Read's stirring poem, "Sheridan's Ride," was generally considered one of the best martial lyrics, if not leading all others. Whittier's "Barbara Frietchie," if embodying more poetry than fact, promises to outlive most of the verse of the Civil War period. Perhaps we should except that fine lyric, "The Blue and the Gray," by Francis M. Finch. This sympathetic poem, which has had a powerful influence toward the re-union of the States, was founded on a touching incident of Decoration Day in 1867, when Southern ladies strewed flowers upon the graves in

Mississippi of Confederate and Federal soldiers alike.
Thus the poem closes :

“ No more shall the war-cry sever,
Nor the winding rivers be red;
They banish our anger forever,
When they laurel the graves of our dead!
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day,
Love and tears for the Blue,
Tears and love for the Gray.”

STREET NOMENCLATURE OF WASHINGTON CITY.

By MR. JUSTICE ALEXANDER B. HAGNER.

(Read before the Society May 3, 1897.)

I am to occupy some portion of your time this evening with a business talk on a very matter-of-fact topic. I propose to say something with reference to the selection of appropriate names for the principal streets within the original boundaries of our city, as laid out under the direction of its great founder.

There can be no greater boon to a city than spacious and convenient streets and avenues. They stand for its arteries and veins as public parks do for its lungs. But their value is incomplete unless there exists an orderly and methodical system of suitable names, so arranged as to enable the resident and the stranger within its gates to ascertain for themselves and without needless trouble or delay the relative positions of the different highways through which they may be called to pass on business or pleasure. And in applying such a system to the Capital of the foremost nation of the world, it is eminently proper that its streets should be dignified by the names of the builders of the nation and the city, and thus present a continual reminder to old and young of the history of the country in which we live.

It seems to have been only within this and the latter part of the last century that the importance of regular or wide streets was recognized by the builders of cities. True, Herodotus informs us that from each of the many small gates in the outer walls of Babylon,

straight streets, the width of which is not stated, ran to the opposite gates. But Herodotus also says the walls of the city were more than three hundred and seventy feet high and ninety feet thick. Warned by the redundant imagination of our friend Father Hennepin, who described the Falls of Niagara which he actually saw with his own eyes only two centuries ago as six hundred feet high (only three times the true measure), we may well hesitate to adopt all the statements of Herodotus, without at all meaning to intimate that the father of history was also near of kin to another gentleman familiarly called the father of—something else. Such exaggerations belong to the ages of travelers' tales.

"Of antres vast and deserts wild, . . .
The anthropophagi and men whose heads
Do grow beneath their shoulders."

In cities of which we know anything from reliable accounts, an inexplicable economy in the breadth and directness of the streets seems to have been the rule. In Rome, at as recent a period as the reign of Augustus, there were but two *viæ* or streets wide enough for the comfortable passage of wagons and chariots; the other thoroughfares, which were known as *vici*, were narrow and devious alleys, constantly blocked by city traffic; thus graphically described by Juvenal, as rendered by Gifford:

"Hark, groaning on the unwieldy wagon speeds
Its cumbrous freight tremendous; o'er our heads
Projecting elm or pine, that nods on high
And threatens death to every passer by."—*Sat.* 3, 384.

Sir Thomas More, in his "Utopia," undertook to picture a community as far surpassing all existing nations in the beauty and comfort of its homes and cities as in the wisdom of its government.

The material elegancies of the Utopian cities were held up to the reader as very great improvements upon the existing conditions in any of the great capitals in the known world in the year 1515, when the book was written. We may comprehend, therefore, the existing insignificance and discomforts of the streets in those great cities, by the boastful statement that in Amaurot, the grand metropolis of the perfected country, the streets although very convenient for all carriages and well sheltered from the winds were full *twenty* feet broad.

The present plan of London after the suppression of numerous tortuous lanes, gives one some idea of its former labyrinth of alleys that bore the names of streets. Boston and New York went through the same street evolution; and the twistings of Milk and Franklin Streets in the former city and of Maiden Lane and William Street in the latter, survive as reminders of the network of insufficient by-ways that were absorbed by the change.

Mean streets deserve and will generally receive mean names. Hogarth has immortalized Gin Lane and the Seven Dials; but they were quite as refined appellations as Cow Lane, Hog Alley, Paddy's Alley and Black Horse Lane, which McMaster says were the accepted names of much-used thoroughfares in Boston at the Revolutionary period.

Fortunately the city of Washington at its birth was free of such perplexing inheritance of disorder; and whatever discomforts and blemishes of this description exist here now, are the results of our own negligent administration of the trust confided to us.

As all are aware, it was the hand of the incomparable Washington that directed the organization of the city. In its establishment he took a constant interest; and his

last official act as President, on the 3d of March, 1797, was a communication to the commissioners on several important matters connected with the public buildings and streets. Up to as late a period as 1791 he had suppressed his own name in speaking of what he had always called "The Federal City"; though the people of the country had long before agreed upon a more appropriate appellation. In September of that year, Messrs. Johnson, Stuart and Carroll, the first Commissioners of the new District, addressed the following letter to Major L'Enfant, from Georgetown:

"Sir.—We have agreed that the Federal District shall be called 'The Territory of Columbia,' and the Federal City, 'The City of Washington:' the title of the map will therefore be 'A Map of the City of Washington in the Territory of Columbia.'

"We have also agreed that the streets shall be named alphabetically one way, and numerically the other: the former divided into North and South letters, the latter into East and West numbers, from the Capitol. Major Ellicott, with proper assistance, will immediately take and soon furnish you with soundings of the Eastern Branch, to be inserted in the map. We expect he will also furnish you with the direction of the proposed post-road which we wish to have noticed in the map."

In accordance with this order the streets were laid out: except that J Street was omitted from the lettered streets, doubtless to prevent confusion from the resemblance of I and J when written. The extremest lettered street, both north and south, was named W. The farthest of the numbered streets to the east was 31st; the farthest to the west, 26th.

Of the lettered streets, the majority are ninety feet wide and only three less than eighty feet; F Street

north and G Street south have a width of one hundred feet, and K Street north of one hundred and forty-seven feet.

Of the numbered streets, sixteen range from one hundred feet to one hundred and twelve feet wide; and 16th Street north measures one hundred and sixty feet. North and South Capitol Streets are each one hundred and thirty feet wide; East Capitol Street one hundred and sixty feet; and Four-and-a-half Street one hundred and ten feet; Thirteen-and-a-half Street, seventy feet; Canal Street thirty feet wide, and Water Street sixty. Of the nineteen original avenues named after States, twelve are one hundred and sixty feet wide; three one hundred and thirty, and four one hundred and twenty feet. There was not a street laid down on the plat, except a few of the most insignificant, which has not a greater width than Chestnut or Walnut Street in Philadelphia, hitherto considered examples of elegance and comfort. The designers of Washington, warned by the blunder made in this respect in other cities, transferred to the bed of the streets the land which would have been practically useless if left to give superfluous depth to the lots.

So far as the nomenclature of the numbered streets is concerned, the system was excellent when adopted and cannot be improved now; but the applications of the alphabetical system to the lettered streets although in the right direction soon developed inconveniences which have continued to increase, and which should now be corrected without further delay. Blunders and absurdities long endured become so hardened by time that correction is often well-nigh impossible; and so the gay equestrians will continue to gallop along Rotten Row, and the busy crowds will throng Pall Mall, with only a hopeless laugh at the absurdity of the

names, until Mrs. Barbauld's "ingenious youth" "from the Blue Mountain, or Ontario's Lake"—(the precursor of Macaulay's *New Zealander*)—shall "press the sod," "when London's faded glories rise to view." Fortunately, in Washington we are in full time to make the proper corrections without running counter to the inveterate habits of centuries.

It is evident the proposed plan of naming the streets, so far as the numbers are concerned, was adopted from the city of Philadelphia, which was then the seat of Government. From that city, also, were derived many of our existing building regulations for the new capital, first promulgated by President Washington in October, 1791. It was then, by far, the most important city in the United States, excelling New York in population, wealth and refinement, and the regularity of its plan was almost unique for that time. The streets running north and south were numbered as they remain to this day. To those running east and west, as far as the city had then been built, were given the names of forest trees; an arrangement supposed to be appropriate for the streets in the capital of a state so exceptionally well wooded that the fact was proclaimed in the charter name, Pennsylvania.

But a great part of the advantage of the numerical arrangement of streets running north and south is lost, where those running east and west have no alphabetical relation to each other. The citizen of Philadelphia to-day has no ready method of ascertaining the relative position of this class of streets, after the familiar jingle has spent itself:

"Market, Arch, Race and Vine,
Chestnut, Walnut, Spruce and Pine."

Beyond these limits even the old resident must be guided only by his personal knowledge of the actual

location of particular streets, acquired by experience and observation, while the stranger who stands most in need of information on the subject must rely only upon those of whom he may make inquiry.

In Washington, by reason of the alphabetical relation of the lettered streets, one by moderate observation can frame an easy system of mnemonics by which he can readily locate with accuracy the position of any particular number on any numbered street.

Commencing, for example, with the letter H on any numbered street north of the Capitol, the fact that 8 and H sound very much alike will enable one to remember that all numbers north of H Street begin with 800. So the presence of I in the word nine will suggest that all the numbers north of I Street begin with 900, and of course all above K with 1000. The letter L sounds so much like eleven that one will be reminded that numbers above L begin with 1100; and, reckoning thence, that all above M begin with 1200; and above N with 1300. As fourteen is the first number that contains the letter O, it is easy to remember that the numbers above O begin with 1400; and so on, without repeating the others, until we reach the last letter, W, the sound of which suggests a double number, 2200, as the beginning of those above W.

Under no circumstance should the efficient suggestion afforded by the alphabetical relation of the lettered streets be abandoned; all we propose is to improve it by abolishing certain obvious defects in the execution of the wise design.

Much of what I shall say may have already occurred to those who have given any thought to the subject, and the particular suggestions I shall make by way of remedy were presented several years ago in a communication I addressed to *The Evening Star*.

The similarity of sound of nearly one-third of the names of the lettered streets (being eight out of twenty-two), when spoken rapidly, causes constant and serious confusion and mistakes. B, C, D, E, G, P, T and V, to ordinary ears, may well be confounded, as they incessantly are.

Any one who stands near a telephone when a message is being transmitted to either of these streets will generally hear, first, the tiresome repetitions of the particular street letter required by the clerk of the sender; then follow the inevitable inquiries from the receiver as to whether the sender meant to call B Street or C Street, or some other of the eight whose names sound so much alike; and lastly, the colloquy of the clerks at the two ends of the line repeating to each other several letters of the alphabet before they have arrived at a satisfactory understanding on the point. And when one considers that the annoyance with which he has thus become sensible is but one of a number of similar delays that constantly happen at that particular instrument, and that such annoyances are happening at every instrument, all over the city, he can begin to understand the extent of the general inconvenience. The like troubles result from the similarity of sound of the letters M and N; and of H and 8; L and Eleventh; of A and K; of U and W; and of I and Y. But to appreciate fully the bother, one must also observe what frequently occurs in any court in the city when the residence of a witness or party, or the locality of any act, is in question, and notice the constant difference between the opposing counsel, the court, and the members of the jury, as to what street had been really named by the witness: such misunderstandings almost forming the rule rather than the exception. Of course, from the same causes, repeated mistakes occur in the

direction and delivery of letters, and in the daily talk of hundreds of people. When all these inconveniences are considered, it must certainly be admitted they rise to the importance of a very great nuisance that should be promptly abated.

The application of the alphabet to these streets at the time they were named, afforded a valuable suggestion to be improved upon in the future; but it could scarcely have been intended as a permanent arrangement. Only one President had yet been chosen, and the range of selection was too limited to furnish an adequate supply of suitable names of prominent citizens. It may also have been considered that the great actors in the struggle for Independence were then too familiar, and their rivalries too recent, to allow the entire disappearance of personal jealousies; and so the adoption of the colorless names of the letters of the alphabet might have been the wisest choice for the time being.

How this arrangement was viewed at the time may be understood from the criticism of an English traveler upon this part of the system of names adopted for Washington. He writes:

"There is not much taste, I think, displayed in the naming of the streets. Generals and statesmen might have lent their names, and helped in their graves to keep patriotism alive. A wag would infer that the north and south streets received their names from a pilot, and the east and west ones from an alphabetical teacher." (Davis' "Travels," p. 170.)


But apart from this objection, the continued application to great thoroughfares, 100 to 160 feet in width and many miles in length, of such insignificant designations as B or C or P Street, indicates a poverty of conception and of taste, a lack of dignity, and a want of appreciation of the importance of the city among

the great capitals of the earth, that to-day would scarcely be expected in the staking off of a petty village boomed into short life by the moon-madness of speculation.

An obvious and easy remedy is to substitute for the several letters affixed to the streets the names of eminent Americans beginning with the corresponding letters, thus preserving all the benefits of an alphabetical arrangement while removing all the objections we have been considering. The troubles from the similarity of names would entirely cease, while the streets would be adorned by designations bearing perpetual testimony of the gratitude of the republic towards its great benefactors.

In Boston this system has been applied to the fine streets crossing Commonwealth Avenue west of the Public Garden which have been named in order, Arlington, Berkeley, Clarendon, Dartmouth, Exeter, etc. How paltry it would have been to call them after the letters of the alphabet alone! It would indeed have seemed the A, B, C of street nomenclature.

I suggest for the consideration of the members of the Society, that there should be applied to the streets running east and west in the original city, in the first place, the names of the Presidents; then, of the Vice-Presidents; then of the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court, and afterwards of the Speakers of the House of Representatives, and of the more distinguished members of the different Cabinets, and of celebrated military characters; as far as possible excluding the names of living persons; and when these sources of supply become exhausted, to admit the names of other distinguished officials, including the earlier mayors of the city; in all cases adopting first from the list of officials of the same grade the names of those who were



earliest in service, and applying the first choice to the streets in the most thickly settled portion of the city, north of the Capitol.

There can be no more enduring and dignified form of recognition of a nation's gratitude to its benefactors than to affix their names to portions of the country itself. Statues rise and fall with those who made them, or are removed to new locations as the whim of the moment may suggest; but when a great name has once, by law or by long usage, been deliberately joined to a mountain, a county, or to a great street in an important city, that name will generally adhere as long as the land itself endures. It is, therefore, especially important that such names should be conferred by competent authority and only after grave consideration; for the unworthy choice may survive as long as the deserving. "Ampersand" seems as firmly fastened to the mountain it belittles as "Washington" is to the sovereign peak of the White Hills of New Hampshire, or "Mitchell" to the monarch of the Black Mountains of North Carolina. And the same mortifying result will follow, where by inattention the authorities of a city have allowed carelessness or ignorance to impose an unworthy name upon an important street: and thus Milk Street and Maiden Lane will continue to annoy future generations because they have become too firmly fixed to admit of disturbance. What a mercy it is that Guiteau did not open a street through a lot in this city and bestow his name upon it, as apparently he might have done with impunity! For at one time it appears to have been considered by the authorities quite as a matter of course that the city would confer what seemed to be an inexpensive compliment upon any land owner who would relinquish a strip of land through his property as the bed of a new alley or street.

I propose also that the authorities shall abolish the incorrect and undignified addition of the words "north" and "south" to different streets beginning with the same letter. The practice is incorrect, because no lettered street north from the Capitol has any more connection with any similarly lettered street south from the Capitol than it has with any other lettered street. G Street north is not a part of G Street south, nor does it touch or approach G Street south through its whole course, any more than it approaches R Street south. Practically the two G Streets are as distinct from one another as W Street north is from W Street south, which are about five miles asunder. There is a reason why the portions of the numbered streets that lie respectively north and south from the Capitol should be designated accordingly, for this discriminates between different portions of the same street; but A Street south is no more a part of A Street north than it is of V Street north.

This practice tends further to expose and emphasize the poverty of thought displayed in calling great streets after the letters of the alphabet, by thus needlessly duplicating this series of colorless names.

The notion that this plan assists the stranger in finding his way is entirely incorrect, for G Street south or G Street north cannot be more easily found than Grant Street or Garfield Street. The proposed plan extends the benefit of the alphabetical arrangement much more effectually than the use of the bare letters themselves.

The selection of appropriate names to fulfill the conditions of our plan was not as simple a matter as one might suppose. Our great men in the early days do not seem to have appropriated the letters of the alphabet for the purposes of initials with entire impartiality.



While some of the letters, such as A, H, J and M, have furnished more than enough initial letters for our purpose, such is not the case with other letters, as D, N, and O. In the roll of our Revolutionary worthies, there is but one name commencing with I. For this reason it is in some degree a necessity to substitute J in its place; which enables us to use three Presidential names commencing with that initial.

I will now read the list of the changes which I propose should be accomplished by Act of Congress, saying a word or two, as I read the list, to identify the least familiar of the names here suggested:

PRESENT AND PROPOSED NAMES OF LETTERED STREETS ORIGINALLY
LAID DOWN ON THE PLAT OF THE CITY FOR THE
STREETS NORTH.

Present Name.	Proposed Name.	Public Service.
A Street north.	Adams.	President.
B Street north.	Buchanan.	President.
C Street north.	Clinton.	Vice-President.
D Street north.	Dallas.	Vice-President.
E Street north.	Ellsworth.	Chief Justice Sup. Court U. S.
F Street north.	Fillmore.	President.
G Street north.	Grant.	President.
H Street north.	Harrison.	President.
I Street north.	Jefferson.	President.
K Street north.	King.	Vice-President.
L Street north.	Lincoln.	President.
M Street north.	Madison.	President.
N Street north.	Nelson.	Signer Decl. of Independence, Gov. Va., and Gen.
O Street north.	Otis.	(James) Patriot.
P Street north.	Polk.	President.
Q Street north.	Quincy.	(Josiah) Patriot.
R Street north.	Rutledge.	Chief Justice.
S Street north.	Sherman.	(Roger) signer Decl. of Ind., of the Articles of Confederation, and of the Constitution.
T Street north.	Tyler.	President.
U Street north.	Upshur.	Secretary State and Navy.
V Street north.	Van Buren.	President.
W Street north.	Washington.	President.

Of the 44 names there are 19 Presidents, 4 Vice-Presidents, 3 Justices Supreme Court United States, 4 signers Declaration of Independence, 14 are those of eminent citizens.

Of the names proposed, 10 are of three syllables, 26 are of 2 syllables, 8 are of one syllable.

PRESENT AND PROPOSED NAMES FOR THE STREETS SOUTH.

Present Name.	Proposed Name.	Public Service.
A Street south.	Arthur.	President.
B Street south.	Bell.	Speaker of H. of Rep., 1834.
C Street south.	Calhoun.	Vice-President, 1828.
D Street south.	Dearborn.	Secretary of War, 1801.
E Street south.	Everett.	Minister to England. Secretary of State.
F Street south.	Franklin.	
G Street south.	Garfield.	President.
H Street south.	Hayes.	President.
I Street south.	Jackson.	President.
K Street south.	Knox.	Secretary of War, 1789.
L Street south.	La Fayette.	
M Street south.	Monroe.	President.
N Street south.	Nicholson.	H. of Rep.; Early Commodores in Navy.
O Street south.	Osgood.	P. M. General 1789.
P Street south.	Pierce.	President.
Q Street south.	Quitman.	Maj. Gen. Mexican War. Governor of Mississippi.
R Street south.	Rush.	Signer Decl. of Ind. Surg. Gen.
S Street south.	Story.	Justice of Sup. Ct. 1811-1845.
T Street south.	Taylor.	President.
U Street south.	Underwood.	(Jos. R.) Judge. Senator.
V Street south.	Van Ness.	Member of the House of Rep. Mayor.
W Street south.	Walcott.	Secretary of Treas., 1795-1797. Signer of Decl. of Ind. and Articles of Confederation.

Otis Street will commemorate James Otis, the "flame of fire," as described by John Adams after his wonderful argument against the writs of assistance. Nelson Street preserves the memory of the heroic Gov-

ernor of Virginia, who pointed out the finest house in Yorktown, which belonged to himself, and urged the artillery to direct their fire upon it, as it would probably be occupied by Cornwallis.

Josiah Quincy is worthy to be remembered as one of the most energetic and constant of the early patriots.

To Edward Everett the country is chiefly indebted for the success of the patriotic effort of Miss Pamela Cunningham of South Carolina, a suffering invalid, to purchase the home of Washington and preserve it for the nation.

Two gallant commodores in our earliest naval contests bore the name of Nicholson; from the beginning of the century the name has been represented in Congress; and among the early proprietors were Nicholson and Greenleaf.

The devotion of Generals Knox and Greene to the Father of his Country recalled in the army the affection of Craterus and Hephæstion for Alexander the Great, and his remark, "Craterus loves the King, but Hephæstion loves Alexander"; but both of our generals revered and loved Washington as well for his great achievements as commander-in-chief as for his personal qualities of head and heart.

This legislation would not be complete without a supplementary provision changing the names of sundry small streets not laid down on the original map, but to which have been applied, with very slender show of authority I am inclined to think, some of the great names which are included in the list I have read.

A very serious embarrassment to visitors as well as to residents in a city, results from the duplication of names of the streets. In old cities this has become a great grievance. In London, according to Mogg's map, eleven streets bear the name of Duke; twelve are

called James; fifteen Charles; seventeen George; seventeen John; eighteen Gloucester; eighteen Queen; nineteen Prince; twenty-one York; twenty-three King; twenty-three Church; and twenty-nine Park. The address of a letter to any such popular street is but a small part of the direction requisite for a sure delivery, even with the excellent methods of the London postoffice.

No one who has not examined the subject can realize what bad progress in this direction we have already made in Washington. I find that of the names of Presidents and others included in the foregoing list (reckoning alleys, courts, places, roads and streets) Jefferson, Johnson and Washington each appear three times; Lincoln, Pierce, Jackson and Grant each five times; Madison eight times; and there are, to a lesser extent, many repetitions of other names. It is time this sort of mischief should be stopped, and this can only be accomplished by legislative enactment.

As the present suggestions are intended only to secure appropriate names to the streets within the city as it was originally laid out, the only changes now proposed are in cases where the names now existing would conflict with those suggested in our list. The rectification of other cases of the kind may be left to the action of the commissioners when they shall undertake to affix suitable names to the streets outside of the city proper, as they have been authorized to do by an existing statute.

In the performance of this most important duty, it is to be hoped the commissioners will apply the alphabetical arrangement to the lettered streets. While there is nothing to prevent the extension of the present *numbered* streets to the extreme northern boundaries of the District, yet the lay of the land will only permit

to a very limited extent, the extension of the present *lettered* streets to the land east and west outside of the city proper. It will therefore be necessary to lay off new lettered streets in the outside territory. This will be best accomplished by arranging it in sections; to one of which might be applied the names of the capital cities of the Union, as was suggested by Mr. Justice Brown; to another the names of our great rivers; to another the names of famous Indians, etc.: in each case preserving the alphabetical arrangement.

To avoid a repetition of the names applied in our list to the lettered streets, I have, as far as possible, selected names, commencing with the same initials as the former names; and of persons connected with the early history of the country or city.

The list submitted for your consideration contains the names of the—

STREETS, PLACES, COURTS AND ALLEYS WITHIN THE CITY AND DISTRICT, WHICH HAVE BEEN CALLED AFTER SOME OF THE NAMES NOW PROPOSED TO BE APPROPRIATED TO THE STREETS WITHIN THE ORIGINAL CITY; WITH THE SUBSTITUTES PROPOSED.

Present Name.	Proposed Name.	Public Service.
Adams Mill road fr. Columbia road.	Hancock.	Signer Decl. of Ind.
Adams St. Anacostia fr. Harrison.	Ames.	(Fisher) Patriot.
Arthur St. Anacostia fr. 62 Grant.	Allen.	(Ethan) Cont. Army.
Arthur Pl. nw. bet. B and C N. J. Ave. and 1st.	Calvert.	(Lord Baltimore.)
Buchanan St. fr. Monroe.	Barney.	(Joshua) Commodore.
Buchanan St. nw. west fr. Columbia road.	Pendleton.	(Edmund) President of 1st Continental Congress.
Cleveland Ave. nw. fr. 1219 W to 1224 Fla. Ave.	Cass.	Secy. State and War. Governor General.
Clinton St. nw. fr. 11th ext. Piney Branch road.	Howard.	(John Eager) Cont. Army. Gov. of Md. Senator.
Clinton Pl. nw. fr. 1120 Conn. Ave.	Chase.	(Samuel) Signer Declaration of Independence.

STREETS, PLACES, COURTS AND ALLEYS—Continued.

Present Name.	Proposed Name.	Public Service.
Decatur St. ne. fr. N. Cap. bet. O and P.	Bayard.	Senator. Commissioner to Ghent.
Fillmore St. Anacostia fr. Harrison.	Forsyth.	Secretary of State; Minister to Spain. Senator.
Franklin St. nw. fr. 1st to 2d and fr. N. J. Ave. to 5th above P.	Campbell.	(William) Hero at King's Mountain 1780.
Garfield Ave. sw. fr. Del. Ave. to B.	Gallatin.	Secretary of Treas. 1801.
Garfield Ave. Washington Heights.	Jay.	First Chief Justice.
Grant St. Anacostia fr. 334 Monroe.	Greene.	(Nathaniel) General.
Grant Ave. nw. fr. Brightwood Ave. to Fla. Ave. and 10th.	Hamlin.	Vice-President.
Grant Pl. nw. fr. 720 9th to 10th.	Colfax.	Vice-President.
Grant road fr. Tennallytown to Broad Branch road.	Randolph.	(Peyton) Prest. First Continental Congress.
Grant St. nw. fr. Pine to Brown road.	Decatur.	Commodore.
Harrison Ave. se. fr. 13th to 14th above C.	Hamilton.	Secretary of Treas. 1789.
Harrison St. Anacostia fr. Monroe.	Hendricks.	Vice-President.
Hayes court nw. fr. 18th above D.	Pickering.	(Timothy) Secretary of State, 1795.
Jackson St. Anacostia fr. Monroe.	Irving.	Minister to Spain. Biographer of Washington.
Jackson St. ne. fr. 721 N. Cap. to 1st.	Tilghman.	(Colonel, Tench) Aide to Washington.
Jefferson Ave. nw. fr. 3025 Water to 3028 M.	Smallwood.	Governor of Maryland. Major General.
Jefferson Pl. nw. fr. 1218 Conn. Ave. to 1227 19th.	Scott.	Lieutenant General.
Jefferson St. Anacostia fr. Monroe.	Izard.	(Ralph) Commr. to Tuscany. Senator, 1781.
King Alley se. bet. 14th and 15th St. S. Car. Ave. and C.	Kendall.	(Amos) Post Master General, 1833.
King ne. fr. Bladensburg road.	Wirt.	(Wm.) Attorney General, 1817-29.

STREETS, PLACES, COURTS AND ALLEYS—Continued.

Present Name.	Proposed Name.	Public Service.
Knox Alley sw. fr. 328 E to 327 F.	Key.	(Francis S.) Author, <i>Star Spangled Banner</i> .
LaFayette Ave. Montello fr. Queen.	Jenifer	(Daniel of St. Thomas) Signer of Constitution, from Maryland.
Lincoln Ave. fr. Fla. Ave. and N. Cap. to Harewood and Bunker Hill roads.	Marshall.	Chief Justice, 1801-55.
Lincoln sq. E. Cap. fr. 11th to 13th.	Lincoln.	
Lincoln St. Anacostia fr. Johnson.	Southard.	Secretary of Navy. Senator. Author of important report explaining the financial situation of the Government with respect to the Dist. of Columbia.
Lincoln St. nw. fr. Brightwood Ave.	Laurens.	(Henry) Minister to Netherlands. Imprisoned in Tower.
Lincoln Terrace nw. hd. 15th and Fla. Ave.	Mercer.	General. Killed at battle of Princeton.
Madison St. nw. fr. 1522 14th to 1519 17th.	Webster.	Secretary of State, etc.
Madison Ave. nw. fr. 518 1st to 519 2d.	Dexter.	(Samuel) Secretary of War and State, 1800-1.
Madison court nw. fr. 1216 Madison.	Muhlenberg.	(Fredk. A.) 1st Speaker, 1789.
Madison St. Anacostia fr. Adams.	Macon.	Speaker, 1801-7.
Madison St. nw. fr. 6th to 7th above M.	Pinkney.	(William) Atty. Genl. Minister to England.
Madison St. nw. fr. 621 M.	Morgan.	(General Daniel) Member of Congress.
Monroe St. Anacostia fr. the bridge to Jefferson.	Wilson.	Vice-President.
Pierce Pl. nw. fr. 1418 14th to 1825 16th.	Johnson.	President.
Pierce St. Anacostia fr. Harrison.	Putnam.	General.
Pierce St. nw. fr. 1140 N. Cap. to 1135 N. J. Ave.	McKean.	Signer Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation. Governor. President of Congress.

STREETS, PLACES, COURTS AND ALLEYS—Continued.

Present Name.	Proposed Name.	Public Service.
Pierce Mill rd. fr. Rockville tpk. to Rock Creek.	Gales.	Mayor of Washington.
Pierce-st. Alley nw. fr. 203 L to 140 Pierce.	Clay.	Commissioner to Ghent. Speaker 1811-25. Secretary of State.
Polk St. Anacostia fr. Jefferson.	Prescott.	Colonel at Bunker Hill.
Quincy St. ne. bet. 1st and 2d and Q and R.	Winthrop.	Speaker, 1847.
Taylor Alley sw. fr. 478 G to 481 H.	Tompkins.	Vice-President, twice.
Taylor St. Anacostia fr. Harrison.	Taney.	Chief Justice.
Washington court nw. fr. 480 Washington.	Hull.	Commodore.
Washington St. Anacostia fr. Monroe.	Woodbury.	Justice United States Supreme Court, Secretary of Treasury.
Washington St. nw. fr. 722 4th to 715 5th. ter to Brazil.	Sumter.	Brigadier General in Revolution. Senator. Minister to Brazil.

I will add that as the names of less important officials or personages have been used in the lists only where there appeared no name of a President or Vice-President appropriate to a particular letter, it should result that when a President shall hereafter be chosen whose name will begin with such particular letter, it might be substituted for that which had been temporarily used.

It appears unfortunate that the name of Washington should be applied to so insignificant a street as the present North W Street, which is now one of the shortest in the series, cutting through a kind of "pan-handle" in the extremest northern point of the city.

There was indeed no necessity to use the name of the Father of his Country at all, in this rearrangement of names, for his fame is secure enough without such

reminder. To no one could Sir Christopher's great epitaph be more justly applied than to the man of men in whose honor the people have reared here the loftiest shaft of stone that ever pierced the clouds, and whose name comprehends the entire city.

But a practicable and not difficult change would convert W Street into one of the most important avenues of the city. It will be seen from the plat that the old Boundary Street, now called Florida Avenue, meets W Street north first at the western extremity of that street; after which it makes a loop to the north and east, in the course of which it again strikes W Street at the eastern end. If Florida Avenue, widened to the breadth of our widest thoroughfares, were called Washington Avenue, and made to run straight through W Street and thence pursue its route eastwardly with the course of that avenue to the Eastern Branch, the city would be encircled on the north by a grand girdle properly adorned by the name of him who guarded the whole country while he lived.


The name would be peculiarly appropriate, as there is within the limits of the city no thoroughfare which was so frequently traversed by General Washington as this.

The northern boundary of the city, as described by Freeman the surveyor in his report of July 4, 1795, began at a point in this road on the eastern bank of a ford in Rock Creek, at what was formerly known as the old Paper Mill bridge where P Street bridge now stands. This was originally the road from Georgetown to Bladensburg. It formed part of an important communication between the southern and the northern colonies, crossing the Potomac at Georgetown, and passing through Vansville, a small village in Prince George's County, Maryland, where it is said Wash-

ington frequently spent the night; and was the post-road referred to in the letter of the commissioners, which I have read. Running northeastwardly from its initial point, Boundary Street skirted the base of the hills that run in a curve facing to the south around the plateau on which the principal part of the city is built.

I do not affirm that Washington always made use of this road in his journeys to the North. Strange to say, his journal very seldom states where he crossed the river. But the Georgetown Ferry was so much more convenient and safe than those across the much wider river near Mount Vernon, that the probabilities are in favor of its frequent selection. Weld, in his travels, speaking of Hoe's Ferry below Mount Vernon, describes the Potomac there as three miles wide, and says that boats crossing were often exposed to great risks from high winds; and he complains of the general insecurity of Virginia ferries and of the constant accidents to persons and horses in crossing them.

Twining came in 1796 by this road from Bladensburg to Georgetown. Washington's journal under date of September 22, 1787, shows he travelled over it on that day; for he states he breakfasted that day at Bladensburg, passed through Georgetown, dined at Alexandria and reached home by sunset, after an absence of more than four months. When Mrs. Washington followed her husband to New York, where he had gone to assume the Presidency, she took the route from Mount Vernon to Alexandria and Georgetown, and thence followed this road to Bladensburg. Washington doubtless continued to use it at times, as long as business required him to travel to the north, and certainly whenever he came to visit the Federal City,



on which occasions he frequently lodged in Georgetown.

Some of these notable journeys were made to Annapolis long before the commencement of the Revolution. His visit to Boston to confer with Governor Shirley was in 1756, the year after Braddock's defeat, when he was but twenty-four years old. Perhaps the most interesting of these expeditions was that made on horseback in 1775, in company with Patrick Henry and Edmund Pendleton, all delegates from Virginia, on their way to attend the Second Continental Congress about to assemble at Philadelphia.

It was at the session of the Virginia Convention that elected these delegates that Washington had declared his readiness to raise one thousand men, sustain them at his own expense and march at their head to the relief of Boston. Five years before, he had told Arthur Lee at Mount Vernon, he was prepared whenever his country called him to take his musket on his shoulder in its defense.

To one who passes over this same ground to-day, it is truly interesting to recall that our Washington, more than a century ago, rode with his friends and servants along this country road under the shade of the fine oaks the survivors of which are still standing. Through the openings of the stately forest his observing eye rested on the waters of his beloved Potomac, that had flowed down more than two hundred miles from its mountain "mother house," to encircle with its affectionate embrace the future Capital of the Nation, and to glide thence along the shores of Mount Vernon where now his remains repose in the peace that was won by his sword.

Two of his biographers have indulged in interesting speculation as to the talk of these three travellers as

they wended their way towards the scene of that grand parliament of which they were already the destined leaders; whose bold and sagacious action was to establish forever in the firmament of the nations a splendid and benignant constellation, shining with a steady effulgence that would forever cheer the friendless peoples, and "what is dark illumine," throughout the world.

Washington's familiarity with the topography of the District, in great part acquired during these journeys, enabled him to form a sound judgment as to the fitness of the location for the site of a great city. It would be preeminently appropriate that this, our *via sacra*, should bear the name of the most illustrious man who had ever passed over its surface.

The incomparable fabric of the builders of the nation should not be allowed to deteriorate in the hands of their descendants and successors. This capital, that the valor and virtues of such men rendered possible, is entrusted in great part to the care of those whose good fortune it is to have their homes here.

The members of Congress, with occasional exceptions, naturally, cannot possess that personal knowledge of the needs of the District that will always enable them to determine for themselves as to the propriety of the various suggestions for its benefit that are constantly laid before them. They favor, I am sure, whatever measures they believe to be for the real interests of the District, in whose advancement and embellishment they must have a just pride. What they reasonably may fear is the danger of being deceived by cunning and unscrupulous lobbyists into the adoption of selfish schemes of speculation.

It is the duty of our people to see that proper information is furnished to the legislators when necessary

to thwart such projects. Within a few years Congress has established the Rock Creek Park, and at the session just closed it conferred upon the District an inestimable boon by enacting that the great reclamation from the bed of our noble river shall, by the name of the Potomac Park, be forever held and used by the Government as a national possession for the recreation and pleasure of the people. I am glad to bear public witness to the importance of the zealous labors of many of our citizens, and especially of Mr. Charles C. Glover, in the advocacy of these beneficent measures before a Congress that only required a candid and intelligent explanation to commend them to its favor.

I cannot better close this subject than by quoting a passage from the opinion of the Supreme Court, delivered by Mr. Justice Story (whose name we propose to affix to one of our streets), in the case of *Van Ness vs. The City of Washington*, 4 Peters, 231. The court, speaking of the original proprietors of the lands comprehended within the District, uses this language:

"They might, and indeed must, also have placed a just confidence in the Government, that in founding the city it would do no act that would obstruct its prosperity or interfere with its great fundamental objects or interests. It could never be supposed that Congress would seek to destroy what its own legislation had created and fostered into being.

"On the other hand it must have been obvious that as Congress must forever have an interest to protect and aid the city, it would for this very purpose be most impolitic and inconvenient to lay any obstruction to the most free exercise of its power over it. The city was designed to last in perpetuity, *capitoli immobile saxum*."

In bringing to a close these remarks, far too protracted, I ask from my auditors their support of the plan I have ventured to suggest, whenever its advocacy may appear to be needed.

APPENDIX.

OFFICERS.

OFFICERS ELECTED AT THE TENTH ANNUAL MEETING HELD
FEBRUARY 8, 1904.

<i>President</i>	JOHN A. KASSON.
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	{ AINSWORTH R. SPOFFORD, ALEXANDER B. HAGNER.
<i>Treasurer</i>	WILLIAM A. MEARNS.
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	MARY STEVENS BEALL.
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	MICHAEL I. WELLER.
<i>Curator</i>	JAMES F. HOOD.
<i>Chronicler</i>	WILHELMUS B. BRYAN.
<i>Managers classified according to expi- ration of term of service</i>	{ 1905 { LEWIS J. DAVIS, J. ORMOND WILSON. 1906 { W J MCGEE, MARCUS BAKER.* 1907 { ELIZABETH BRYANT JOHNSTON, TALLMADGE A. LAMBERT. 1908 { JOHN B. LARNER, HUGH T. TAGGART.

* Died December 12, 1903. James Dudley Morgan, M.D., elected to fill the vacancy.

COMMITTEES.

On Communications.

W. B. BRYAN,	HUGH T. TAGGART,
W J MCGEE,	M. I. WELLER,
JAMES DUDLEY MORGAN.	

On Membership.

A. B. HAGNER,	A. R. SPOFFORD,
M. I. WELLER,	JAMES F. HOOD,
W. B. BRYAN.	

On Publication.

JOHN B. LARNER,	J. DUDLEY MORGAN,
W J MCGEE,	W. B. BRYAN,
MARY STEVENS BEALL,	J. HENLEY SMITH.

On Building.

LEWIS J. DAVIS,	J. ORMOND WILSON,
JAMES F. HOOD,	WESTON FLINT.

On Exchange.

JAMES F. HOOD,	T. A. LAMBERT,
MRS. MARY STEVENS BEALL.	

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, APRIL 11, 1904.

Abert, William Stone,	1520 K St.
Addison, Mrs. Clare G.,	1765 N St.
Anderson, Thomas H.,	City Hall.
Arms, John Taylor,	1408 M St.
Ashford, Mrs. Isabella W.,	1763 P St.
Babson, J. W.	108 Eleventh St., S. E.
Baker, John A.,	1819 H St.
Ballinger, Mrs. Madison A.,	1534 Twenty-eighth St.
Barnard, Job,	1306 Rhode Island Ave.
Beall, Mrs. Mary Stevens,	1643 Thirty-second St.
Bell, Charles James,	1327 Connecticut Ave.
Bingham, Edward F.,	1907 H St.
Blagden, Thomas,	"Argyle," Fourteenth St. ext.
Blair, Henry P.,	Columbian Building.
Blair, John S.,	1416 F St.
Blair, Montgomery,	344 D St.
Blount, Henry Fitch,	"The Oaks," 3101 U St.
Bolce, Harold,	918 Eighteenth St.
Bowie, W. W.,	803 A St., S. E.
Bradley, Charles S.,	1722 N St.
Brice, Arthur T.,	1711 M St.
Britton, Alexander,	1419 F St.
Brown, Glenn,	918 F St.
Browne, Aldis B.,	1528 P St.
Bryan, Joseph H.,	818 Seventeenth St.
Bryan, Wilhelmus Bogart,	1330 Eighteenth St.
Bukey, Mrs. Jean Magruder,	404 M St.
Bulkley, Barry,	The Marlborough.
Bundy, Charles S.,	344 D St.
Burdette, Walter W.,	1026 Vermont Ave.
Butler, Charles H.,	U. S. Supreme Court.
Byington, Miss Marie E.,	1468 Rhode Island Ave.

List of Members.

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Carpenter, Frank G.,	1318 Vermont Ave.
Chany, Mrs. Jane D. B.,	1433 L St.
Chilton, Robert S., Jr.,	822 Eighteenth St.
Church, Charles B.,	306 Eleventh St., S. W.
Clagett, Charles W.,	422 Fifth St.
Clark, Allen C.,	605 F St.
Clark, Appleton P., Jr.,	241 Delaware Ave., N. E.
Clarke, Daniel B.,	1422 Massachusetts Ave.
Clephane, Walter C.,	1747 Corcoran St.
Cook, George Wythe,	3 Thomas Circle.
Cook, John,	Perpetual Building Asso.
Corning, John Herbert,	520 Thirteenth St.
Cammack, John,	3553 Brightwood Ave.
Cox, William Van Zandt,	Brightwood, D. C.
Coyle, Miss Emily B.,	1760 N St.
Coyle, Rev. Leonidas E.,	35 Lake St., Bridgeton, N. J.
Cragin, Charles H.,	3127 Dumbarton Ave.
Cull, Judson T.,	344 D St.
Curtis, William Eleroy,	1801 Connecticut Ave.
Cutter, Edwin C.,	1408 G St.
Davenport, R. Graham, U.S.N.	1729 G St.
Davidge, Walter D.,	1624 H St.
Davidson, H. Bradley,	1338 F St.
Davis, Eldred G.,	2211 R St.
Davis, Lewis J.,	1411 Massachusetts Ave.
Davis Madison,	316 A St., S. E.
DeCaindry, Mrs. William A.,	914 Farragut Square.
Deeble, W. Riley,	2020 P St.
Dennis, William Henry,	416 Fifth St.
Dent, Louis A.,	1516 Ninth St.
Detwiler, Frederick M.,	504 I St.
Dixon, William Suel, U.S.N.,	1336 Nineteenth St.
Draper, Mrs. Amos G.,	Kendall Green.
Duncanson, Charles C.,	319 Ninth St.,
Dutton, Robert W.,	467 C St.
Duvall, Andrew B.,	1831 M St.
Easterday, George J.,	1410 G St.

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Eaton, George G.,	1324 South Capitol St.
Eckhardt, Cornelius,	1101 Pennsylvania Ave.
Edson, John Joy,	1324 Sixteenth St.
Edwards, Miss Annie L.,	1633 Massachusetts Ave.
Ellicott, Eugene,	2031 Locust St., Phila., Pa.
Fardon, Abram P.,	1918 I St.
Ffoulke, Charles Mather,	2013 Massachusetts Ave.
Flather, William J.,	Riggs Bank.
Fletcher, Miss A. Cunningham,	214 First St., S. E.
Fletcher, Robert,	The Portland.
Flint, Weston,	The Westover.
Ford, Worthington C.,	Library of Congress.
Foster, John Watson,	1323 Eighteenth St.,
Foulke, William D.,	1266 New Hampshire Ave.
Frailey, Charles L.,	2235 Q St.
Fraser, Daniel,	1626 P St.
Fulton, Creed M.,	319 Four-and-a-half St.
Gale, Thomas M.,	1314 L St.
Galt, Sterling,	1861 Mintwood Place.
Gilkey, Miss Malina A.,	16 Fifth St., S. E.
Glover, Charles C.,	20 Lafayette Square.
Gordon, J. Holdsworth,	3028 Q St.
Gordon, William A.,	6 Cooke Place.
Granger, John Tileston,	1838 Connecticut Ave.
Grosvenor, Gilbert II.,	Hubbard Memorial Hall.
Gurley, William Brooks,	1335 F St.
Hagner, Alexander Burton,	1818 H St.
Hallock, E. S.,	205 E St.
Handy, Charles W.,	610 Thirteenth St.
Harper, Albert,	426 Fifth St.
Harries, George H.,	Fourteenth & E. Capitol Sts.
Harvey, Frederick L.,	622 F St.
Hearst, Mrs. Phœbe Apperson,	1400 New Hampshire Ave.
Heaton, Augustus George,	1618 Seventeenth St.
Hemphill, John J.,	2108 Bancroft Place.
Henderson, John B., Jr.,	1520 Connecticut Ave.

Henning, George C.,	Traders' National Bank.
Henry, J. William,	3241 N St.
Heurich, Christian,	1307 New Hampshire Ave.
Herron, J. Whit,	Office <i>Evening Star</i> .
Hibbs, William B.,	1427 F St.
Hieston, Walter,	1420 F St.
Hill, William Corcoran,	1724 H St.
Hodge, Frederick Webb,	Smithsonian Institution.
Hood, James Franklin,	1017 O St.
Hopkins, James H.,	1324 Eighteenth St.
Hornblower, Joseph C.,	1509 H St.
Howard, George H.,	1914 N St.
Howison, Robert R.,	Fredericksburg, Va.
Hoxie, Mrs. Vinnie Ream,	1632 K St.
Hughes, Percy M.,	318 B St., S. E.
Hume, Frank,	1235 Massachusetts Ave.
Hungerford, William A.,	<i>Evening Star</i> Building.
Hutcheson, David,	Library of Congress.
Hutchins, Stilson,	1603 Massachusetts Ave.
Hyde, Thomas,	1537 Twenty-eighth St.
Jackson, Miss Cordelia,	1424 Thirty-third St.
Janin, Mrs. Violet Blair,	12 Lafayette Square.
Johnson, H. L. E.,	1821 Jefferson Place.
Johnston, Miss Elizabeth B.,	1320 Florida Ave.
Johnston, James M.,	1628 K St.
Jones, Thomas R.,	National Safe Deposit Co.
Kasson, John Adam,	1726 I St.
Kauffmann, Samuel Hay,	1421 Massachusetts Ave.
Kern, Charles E.,	1328 Harvard St.
Kibbey, Miss Bessie J.,	2025 Massachusetts Ave.
Kingsman, Richard,	711 East Capitol St.
Kober, George M.,	1819 Q St.
Lambert, Tallmadge A.,	1219 Massachusetts Ave.
Lansburgh, James,	2511 Fourteenth St.
Larcombe, John S.,	1815 H St.
Larner, John Bell,	1335 F St.

Lee, Blair,	344 D St.
Leighton, Benjamin F.,	416 Fifth St.
Leiter, Levi Zeigler,	1500 New Hampshire Ave.
Lenman, Miss Isobel Hunter,	1100 Twelfth St.
Lincoln, Charles H.,	Library of Congress.
Looker, Henry B.,	3100 Newark St., Cleveland Park, D. C.
Lothrop, Alvin Mason,	Cor. Eleventh and F Sts.
Lowndes, James,	1515 Massachusetts Ave.
Lynch, John, Jr.,	1335 F St.
McGee, W J,	1901 Baltimore St.
McGill, J. Nota,	Woodley Lane. .
McGuire, Frederick Bauders,	1333 Connecticut Ave.
McKee, David R.,	1753 Rhode Island Ave.
McKee, Frederick,	507 E St.
McKenney, F. D.,	1317 F St.
McLanahan, G. William,	1602 Twenty-first St.
McLeran, John E.,	45 Wesley Heights.
Mackall, Miss S. Somervell,	3040 Dumbarton Ave.
Magruder, G. Lloyd,	815 Vermont Ave.
Magruder, John H.,	1726 Twenty-first St.
Mann, Miss Mary Elizabeth,	918 F St.
Marshall, James Rush,	1509 H St.
Mason, Otis Tufton,	1751 P St.
Matthews, Henry S.,	1410 G St.
Mattingly, William F.	1616 H St.
May, Frank P.,	634 Pennsylvania Ave.
May, George J.,	634 Pennsylvania Ave.
May, Henry,	1325 K St.
Mearns, William A.,	1315 F St.
Meloy, William A.,	118 C St.
Merritt, William E. H.,	1008 F St.
Miller, Frederick A., U.S.N.,	2201 Massachusetts Ave.
Miller, J. Barton,	1325 Thirty-second St.
Miller, Miss Virginia,	1729 P St.
Moore, Frederic Lawrence,	1680 Thirty-first St.
Moore, General John, U.S.A.,	930 Sixteenth St.

List of Members.

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Moore, Mrs. Virginia Campbell,	1680 Thirty-first St.
Morgan, James Dudley,	919 Fifteenth St.
Morris, Martin F.,	1314 Massachusetts Ave.
Morris, Miss Maud Burr,	1603 Nineteenth St.
Morrison, Mrs. Isabella H.,	811 Thirteenth St.
Mosher, Mrs. James,	1717 I St.
Moss, George W.,	1411 G St.
Muncaster, O. M.,	802 Nineteenth St.
Munn, Henry B.,	1334 R St.
Mussey, Mrs. Ellen S.,	470 Louisiana Ave.
Newcomb, Simon, U.S.N.,	1620 P St.
Newton, Watson J.,	610 Thirteenth St.
Norris, James L.,	501 F St.
North, S. N. Dexter,	Director of the Census.
Noyes, Crosby S.,	Office <i>Evening Star</i> .
Noyes, Theodore Williams,	1730 New Hampshire Ave.
Noyes, Thomas C.,	Office <i>Evening Star</i> .
Osborne, John Ball,	918 Eighteenth St.
Owen, Frederick D.,	3 Grant Place.
Owen, Owen,	423 Eleventh St.
Palmer, Aulick,	1401 Staughton St.
Parker, E. Southard,	Nat. Metropolitan Bank.
Parker, John C.,	617 and 619 Seventh St.
Parris, Albion K.,	3022 P St.
Parsons, Arthur J.,	1818 N St.
Payne, James G.,	2112 Massachusetts Ave.
Pellew, Henry E.,	1637 Massachusetts Ave.
Pelz, Paul J.,	2011 F St.
Pentland, Andrew W.,	1330 Eighteenth St.
Perry, R. Ross,	344 D St.
Petty, James T.,	3331 O St.
Phillips, Robert A.,	1406 G St.
Pickford, Thomas H.,	120 Maryland Ave., N. E.
Pinchot, Gifford,	Department of Agriculture.
Poor, John Caldwell,	1724 Connecticut Ave.
Pratt, Frederick W.,	Corcoran Bldg.

Ramsay, Francis M., U.S.N.,	1921 N St.
Rheem, Clarence B.,	916 F St.
Richardson, Mrs. Charles W.,	1102 L St.
Richardson, Francis Asbury,	1308 Vermont Ave.
Ridgely, William Barret,	1513 Sixteenth St.
Riggs, E. Francis,	1311 Massachusetts Ave.
Rittenhouse, David,	1607 Twenty-eighth St.
Rives, Mrs. Jeannie Tree,	1818 Jefferson Place.
Robbins, James,	1314 Vermont Ave.
Robinson, William P.,	The Chapin.
Rudolph, Cuno H.,	1004 F St.
Satterlee, Rt. Rev. Henry Yates,	1407 Massachusetts Ave.
Saul, John A.,	344 D St.
Saunders, William H.,	1407 F St.
Seaton, Malcolm,	1140 Connecticut Ave.
Shand, Miles,	Department of State.
Shir-Cliffe, William H.,	War Department.
Shoemaker, Louis P.,	920 F St.
Shuey, Theodore F.,	2809 Fourteenth St.
Simmons, B. Stanley,	Warder Building.
Simmons, George,	2549 Eleventh St.
Simpson, Henry K.,	326 Pennsylvania Ave., S. E.
Simpson, John Crayke,	Govt. Insane Asylum.
Slauson, Allan B.,	Library of Congress.
Sleman, John B., Jr.,	Bond Building.
Sloan, Charles G.,	1407 G St.
Small, John H., Jr.,	Cor. Fourteenth and G Sts.
Smith, J. Henley,	1224 Connecticut Ave.
Smith, Thomas W.,	616 East Capitol St.
Smith, William R.,	Supt. Nat. Botanic Garden.
Sowers, Z. T.,	1320 New York Ave.
Spear, Ellis,	1003 F St.
Spofford, Ainsworth Rand,	1621 Massachusetts Ave.
Sturtevant, Charles L.,	928 F St.
Sullivan, Thomas J.,	1530 Ninth St.
Sunderland, David O.,	618 Twelfth St.
Swartzell, G. W. F.,	916 F St.
Sylvester, Richard,	Hdqrs. Met. Police.

List of Members.

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Taggart, Hugh T.,	3249 N St.
Taylor, James H.,	613 Fifteenth St.
Thomas, Edward H.,	916 F St.
Thompson, W. B.,	1419 F St.
Thorn, Charles G.,	1821 Baltimore St.
Tindall, William,	2103 California Ave.
Townsend, George Alfred,	229 First St., N. E.
Tree, Lambert,	70 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.
Truesdell, George,	1403 F St.
Turpin, William B.,	1429 New York Avenue.
Van Wickle, William P.,	1225 Pennsylvania Ave.
Warner, Brainard Henry,	916 F St.
Weller, Michael I.,	602 F St.
Wells, Henry,	1410 G St.
West, Henry Litchfield,	1364 Harvard St.
White, Charles E.,	621 Third St.
White, Oscar W.,	1116 F St.
Whitney, Rev. John D.,	Georgetown University.
Whittemore, Williams Clark,	1526 New Hampshire Ave.
Willard, Henry A.,	1333 K St.
Williams, Charles P.,	1675 Thirty-first St.
Williams, W. Mosby,	416 Fifth St.
Wilson, Albert A.,	2000 G St.
Wilson, James Ormond,	1439 Massachusetts Ave.
Wilson, Jesse B.,	Lincoln National Bank.
Wilson, Jesse H.,	2914 P St.
Wolf, Simon,	1756 Q St.
Woodhull, M. Van Zandt,	
U.S.A.,	2033 G St.
Woodward, Frederick E.,	Eleventh and F Sts.
Woodward, S. Walter,	2015 Wyoming Ave.
Wooward, Thomas P.,	507 E St.
Wyman, Walter,	Hotel Richmond.
Zevely, Douglass,	1525 O St.

**COMMUNICATIONS MADE TO THE COLUMBIA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.**

(Continuation from Page 278, Vol. 6.)

1903.

Jan. 12. Historic Fort Washington. James Dudley Morgan, M.D. Published in this volume.

Early History of the Washington Library Company and Other Local Libraries. W. Dawson Johnston. Published in this volume.

Feb. 9. A Forgotten Philanthropist of Georgetown. Miss Cordelia Jackson. Published in this volume.

The Life and Times of Pontius D. Stelle. Miss Maud Burr Morris. Published in this volume.

Mar. 9. Notes on General Washington's Houses on Capitol Hill. Henry B. Looker. Published in this volume.

Hotels of Washington City Prior to the Year 1814. W. B. Bryan. Published in this volume.

Apr. 13. Why the City Went Westward from the Capitol. James Dudley Morgan, M.D., Glenn Brown, Allen C. Clark, W. B. Bryan and Hugh T. Taggart. Published in this volume.

May 11. Old Residences and Family History in the City Hall Neighborhood. Douglass Zevly. Published in this volume. [First paper, pp. 104-122, Vol. 6.]

The First Master of Ceremonies of the White House. John H. McCormick, M.D. Published in this volume.

Nov. 9. Houses of Brick Imported from England. George Alfred Townsend. Published in this volume.

Dec. 14. The Lyric Element in American History. Ainsworth R. Spofford, LL.D. Published in this volume.

1897.

May 3. Street Nomenclature of Washington City, by Justice Alexander B. Hagner. Published in this volume.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLUMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

NINTH ANNUAL MEETING.

64th meeting.

January 12, 1903.

"Historic Fort Washington on the Potomac" was the subject of Dr. J. Dudley Morgan's communication which was illustrated by the reproduction of a rare, old map, enlarged and colored so as to be readily seen by the audience. The subject was discussed by Miss E. B. Johnston, Col. B. K. Roberts, the present Commandant at the Fort, and Mr. M. I. Weller. "Early History of the Washington Library Company and other local libraries," by Mr. W. Dawson Johnston, was the second communication and Messrs. Davis, Flint, Wilson, Bryan, Hagner and J. Henley Smith participated in the resulting discussion. Mr. Lewis J. Davis exhibited his grandfather's copy of the catalogue of the circulating library of Davis and Force, prior to 1825.

The evening closed with the business pertaining to the annual meeting, Mr. William Henry Dennis and Mr. Thomas Antisell Cruikshank acting as tellers during the election. Present, about 90 members and guests.

65th meeting.

February 9, 1903.

The first communication was by Miss Cordelia Jackson and read at her request by Mrs. Secretary Beall. The subject was "John Barnes; a Forgotten Philanthropist of Georgetown." It was discussed by Miss E. B. Johnston and Mrs. M. S. Beall. The second, was by Miss Maud Burr Morris on "The Life and Times of Pontius D. Stelle." and was discussed by Messrs. Zevely, Weller, Davis, Spofford and Bryan. Present, about 120 members and guests.

66th meeting.

March 9, 1903.

Major Henry B. Looker made the first communication, taking for his subject "Gen. Washington's Houses on Capitol

Hill." Discussion by Messrs. J. L. Davis, J. Henley Smith, A. B. Hagner, M. I. Weller and Miss E. B. Johnston. Mr. W. B. Bryan contributed the second, his subject being "Hotels of Washington City Prior to the Year 1814." It was discussed by Dr. A. R. Spofford. Present, about 95 members and guests.

67th meeting.

April 13, 1903.

The evening was devoted to a discussion on the topic "Why the City Went Westward," the participants being Dr. J. Dudley Morgan, Mr. Glenn Brown (whose paper was read by Mr. Bedford Brown and illustrated by lantern slides), Mr. Allen C. Clark, Mr. W. B. Bryan and Mr. Hugh T. Taggart. Present, about 35 members and guests.

68th meeting.

May 11, 1903.

Mr. Douglass Zevely's communication was entitled "Old Residences and Family History in the City Hall Neighborhood," and was a continuation of a communication on the same subject made by Mr. Zevely, April 14, 1902, and published in volume 6 of The Records. The second communication of the evening was by John D. McCormick, M.D., and treated of one whom he styled "The First Master of Ceremonies of the White House." Discussed by Miss Johnston, Mr. Bryan and Mr. Glenn Brown. Present, about 60 members and guests.

69th meeting.

November 9, 1903.

The Chair welcomed the Society and its guests after the summer adjournment and spoke briefly as to the objects for which the Society had been organized, its growth, work accomplished and its prosperity. The communication was by Mr. George Alfred Townsend, who took as his subject the prevalent belief that many houses of colonial times were built of brick imported from England. Mrs. Newcomb, Mrs. Ballinger, Messrs. Weller, Bryan, Morgan, Hagner, Spofford, Mr. Thomas M. Owen, Secretary of the Alabama Historical Society and Miss Johnston took part in the resulting discussion. Present, about 90 members and guests.

70th meeting.

December 14, 1903.

Dr. A. R. Spofford's communication was on "The Lyric Element in American History" and the subject was discussed by Miss Fanny Lee Jones, Hon. William D. Foulke, Mrs. M. A. Ballinger, Mr. G. A. Townsend, Miss E. B. Johnston, Mrs. Simon Newcomb and Judge Hagner.

The Chair then referred briefly to the great loss sustained by the Society in the death of Marcus Baker, a member of its Governing Board since its organization, and announced that a committee consisting of Dr. Spofford, Mr. Bryan and Miss Johnston had been appointed to provide a suitable memorial to be read at the next meeting of the Society. Present, about 110 members and guests.

All the above meetings were held in the Banquet Hall of the Shoreham.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER (NINTH AND TENTH
ANNUAL REPORTS COMBINED), 1902 AND 1903.**

DR.

Balance January 6, 1902.....	\$ 459.66
Dues 1902-1903.....	2,020.00
Publications	90.00
Dues 1904.....	40.00
	<u>\$2,609.66</u>

CR.

Expense 1902-1903.....	\$1,603.26
Balance in bank.....	858.40
Checks and cash items.....	98.00
Life membership fund.....	50.00
	<u>\$2,609.66</u>

Report to January 8, 1904, inclusive.

WILLIAM A. MEARNS,
Treasurer.

NOTE.—At the annual meeting of the Society the report of the treasurer was referred to an auditing committee consisting of Messrs. William A. Meloy, Douglass Zevely and Wm. Henry Dennis.

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RECORDING
SECRETARY, 1903.

*To the President and Members of the Columbia Historical
Society:*

The Recording Secretary respectfully submits this the *Tenth Annual Report*, beginning with the 64th meeting, January 12, 1903, and ending with the 70th meeting on December 14, of the same year.

The Society has grown from a band of 29 persons signing the Articles of Incorporation in May, 1894, to a membership of 283 upon this, our tenth annual meeting. During the year, we have gained 49 new members, lost 5 by death, 8 by resignation and 4 through other causes.

The Society has held 7 meetings, all in the banquet hall of the Shoreham Hotel. Fifteen written communications have been presented and 42 members and guests have taken part in the resulting discussions. The average attendance has been 86; the largest 120 at the February and the smallest 35 at the April meeting. The Board of Managers has held 8 meetings, at which the average attendance has been 10. When the westward growth of the Capital was discussed, one of the five papers presented was illustrated with lantern slides.

Volume 6 of *The Records*, published this year, contains 296 pages and 13 illustrations, some of which are reproductions of rare portraits. The Committee on Publication feel justly proud of this issue as it inaugurates the plan of binding our publications, yet at no additional cost to our members.

During the year, systematic efforts have been made to notably increase the membership, as in no other way can we secure a permanent home for our library which is steadily growing but, until such a home is provided for it, must remain in storage.

Our present members can show their appreciation of what the Society has already done, in no better way than by helping us double our numbers by the end of our first decade, in May 1904.

MARY STEVENS BEALL,
Recording Secretary.

February 8, 1904.

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CURATOR.

To the President and Members of the Columbia Historical Society:

I submit herewith my tenth annual report as your Curator.

The catalogue of books and pamphlets constituting the Busey Donation, which I was authorized to prepare, including for convenience of reference all the other donations which have come into my hands since the organization of the Society, is making satisfactory progress.

During the year I have received and turned over to the Treasurer \$59.00 for volumes of our publications sold to members and other persons, and have delivered to public institutions and libraries the several volumes which were specially voted to them by the Board of Trustees.

No purchases for the library have been made. Its accessions by gift and exchange during the year were as follows:

A NUMBER of newspapers and newspaper clippings relating to the history of the National Capital. (Presented by Miss Cordelia Jackson.)

BULLETIN OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY. Vol. VII., Nos. 1 to 12 (January to December, 1903). (By exchange with the Library.)

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOUTHERN HISTORY ASSOCIATION. Vol. VII., Nos. 1 to 6 (January to December, 1903). (By exchange with the Association.)

LES COMBATTANTS FRANCAIS DE LA GUERRE AMERICAINE, 1778-1783. Paris, 1903. 4°. (Presented by the Ambassador of France at Washington, through the Department of State.)

BULLETIN OF THE GRAND LODGE OF IOWA. A. F. AND A. M. Vol. 6, Nos. 1 to 4, 1903. (By exchange with the Grand Lodge.)

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE. Vol. 3, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1903. (By exchange with the West Virginia Historical Society.)

CATALOGUE OF U. S. PUBLIC DOCUMENTS. Nos. 95 to 106 (Nov. 1902, to Oct., 1903). (Presented by the Superintendent of Documents.)

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE JOURNAL. Vol. XXXI., No. 6 (March, 1903). (Presented by the Editors.)

ALABAMA HISTORICAL PAMPHLETS (2). (Presented by the Director of the Department of Archives and History.)

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY. Sixth Biennial Report of the Librarian. (By exchange with the Library.)

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Proceedings, 1901-1902. (Presented by the Society.)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, PUBLIC LIBRARY. Fifth Annual Report of Trustees, 1903. (Presented by the Librarian.)

PAMPHLETS (5). (Presented by various donors.)

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE ORIGINAL D. OF C. AND ENVIRONS. By E. G. Arnold. New York, 1862. (Presented by Mr. Franklin Rives.)

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CASANAVE HOUSE. (Presented by Mr. Madison Davis.)

PHOTOGRAPHS (2) of the residence of the late Hudson Taylor. (Presented by Mr. Adolf Cluss.)

Very respectfully,

JAMES F. HOOD,
Curator.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
February 8, 1904.

REPORT OF THE CHRONICLER.

PRINCIPAL LOCAL EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1903.

The Chronicler submitted the following report:
1903.

- Jan. 7. Public Library Building dedicated.
“ 8. Senate District Committee investigates the price of coal in the District.
“ 29. McKinley Manual Training School building dedicated.
- Feb. 2. Erection of a building for department of agriculture authorized.
“ 10. Telephone Subscribers Association and Telephone Co. reach an agreement ending further litigation.
“ 14. Foundry and 15th Street M. E. Churches unite and adopt name of former.
“ 16. George B. Cortelyou placed at head of new Department of Commerce and Labor.
“ 21. Corner stone of Army War College laid.
- Mar. 20. Fiftieth anniversary of Waugh M. E. Church celebrated.
“ 26. Post Office Department investigation under way.
“ 27. J. C. Pritchard of North Carolina appointed associate justice of the District Supreme Court.
Justice Harry M. Clabaugh appointed chief justice
vice Edward F. Bingham resigned.
- Apr. 1. Award of contract for constructing water filtration plant.
“ 2. Municipal regulation prohibiting spitting on sidewalks and in public places.
- May 4. American National Bank opened for business.
“ 4. Funeral services over remains of Ex-Gov. A. R. Shepherd.
“ 8. Condemnation proceedings of square 680 for House of Rep. office building.

- May 9. Henry B. F. Macfarland enters upon second term as District Commissioner.
- “ 23. Plans for new National Museum building approved.
- “ 27. A. W. Machen superintendent of rural free delivery, Post Office Department, arrested.
- June 2. J. M. A. Watson clerk in District Auditor's office arrested charged with stealing \$67,500 of District funds.
- “ 6. Corner stone laid of Episcopal Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital Building.
- “ 6. William T. Belt appointed chief of fire department vice R. W. Dutton resigned.
- “ 8. Grace Reform Church dedicated.
- “ 20. Purchase of Van Ness Square by Columbian University.
- “ 29. Corner stone of new edifice of Foundary M. E. Church laid.
- July 6. Corner stone of St. Vincent de Paul Church laid.
- “ 13. District Commissioners lease wharf property, the public ownership having been determined in Potomac Flats case.
- “ 21. W. A. Miller reinstated in his position in the Government Printing Office in accordance with an executive order.
- “ 22. John R. Garrison appointed District Auditor vice J. T. Petty.
- Aug. 1. Provision for public play grounds.
- “ 24. Decision that postage must be paid on District official mail.
- “ 29. Regulations governing use and speed of automobiles.
- Sept. 30. Square 143 acquired as site for Hall of Records.
- Oct. 15. Statue of Gen. W. T. Sherman unveiled.
- “ 20. Opening of road bordering Potomac Park from 17th St. to the Long Bridge.
- “ 20. Storm with wind velocity at forty miles per hour.
- Nov. 5. D. T. Wright of Ohio appointed associate justice District Supreme Court vice A. B. Hagner, retired.

May 16. One Hundredth anniversary of the New York Ave.
Presbyterian Church celebrated.

“ 21. Seventy-fifth anniversary of the Fourth Presbyterian
Church celebrated.

“ 24. Chas. F. Scott and Ivory G. Kimball succeed them-
selves as judges of the Police Court.

“ 25. Permits issued for beginning work on Union Station
construction.

“ 30. Fiftieth anniversary of the Congress St. M. P.
Church celebrated.

Dec. 7. Unsuccessful test of the Langley Air Ship in the
Potomac below the Washington Arsenal.

NECROLOGY.

1903, February 24th.....JAMES MADISON CUTTS.

1903, March 19th.....NOBLE DANFORTH LARNER.

1903, November 5th.....JAMES O'NEIL.

1903, December 4th.....HENRY C. WINSHIP.

1903, December 12th.....MARCUS BAKER.

ERRATUM.

Volume 6, page 287: April 24, 1902, Rochambeau statue un-
veiled, should be May 24, 1902.

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